



Senate Activity for Monday, February 22, 2016

SENATE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS

Legislative Committee on Public Health Futures: Appoint Sen. Yuko and Carla Hicks

Capitol Square Review & Advisory Board: Appoint Sen. Peterson to replace former Sen. Widener

Sunset Review Committee: Appoint Sen. Coley to replace former Sen. Widener

SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR

SB 260
(Enacted)

CAPITAL REAPPROPRIATIONS (Coley, B.) To make capital reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2018.
Signed: February 21, 2016

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Columbus Ohio 43215
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Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Daily Activity Planner for Tuesday, February 23

Legislative Committees

House Local Government (Committee Record) (Chr. Anielski, M., 644-6041), Rm. 018, 9 a.m.

- HB 455** **BOARDING SCHOOL ZONE** (Patterson, J., Roegner, K.) To authorize a municipal corporation or township to establish a boarding school zone and a special speed limit within that zone. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 407** **BODY CAMERAS** (Boyce, K., Grossman, C.) To require law enforcement agencies that use body cameras to adopt written policies for operation of the cameras and to require agencies to make the adopted policies available to the public. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 361** **COMMUNITY EVENT FUNDING** (Brenner, A.) To authorize boards of township trustees and boards of park commissioners to expend funds for the public purpose of presenting community events in their parks and at other recreational facilities. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- HB 375** **SNOW REMOVAL** (Brown, T., Arndt, S.) To authorize townships to require the removal of snow and ice from sidewalks abutting property and to impose a fine for failure to do so. (3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)
- HB 333** **BIDDING THRESHOLDS** (Schaffer, T., Hambley, S.) To increase the monetary thresholds above which competitive bidding is required for township road construction, repair, or maintenance contracts, and to increase the monetary thresholds above which a force account assessment is required for a township road construction, repair, or maintenance project. (3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)
- HB 378** **TRAFFIC ARRESTS** (Hambley, S., Rezabek, J.) To authorize law enforcement officers of township police districts and joint police districts, and township constables, serving specified small populations to make arrests for motor vehicle-related violations committed on an interstate highway in the same manner as township law enforcement officers serving larger populations. (3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)
- HB 413** **EXECUTIVE SESSION** (Brinkman, T.) To add to the purposes for which a board of township trustees may go into executive session, to permit a township to charge for recycling services, to reduce the population threshold for a township to adopt a limited home rule form of government, to authorize a township to purchase, lease, or provide underwater rescue and recovery equipment for fire and rescue purposes, to authorize boards of township trustees to pay for group life insurance for any employee, to make other changes to the township laws, to allow taxing units to use the proceeds of a

fire, police, or emergency services tax levy to pay costs related to the service for which the tax is levied, and to expand the public infrastructure improvements townships, municipal corporations, and counties may pay for using money from their public improvement tax increment equivalent funds. (3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)

HB 462 **POLICE DISTRICT** (Hagan, C., Sprague, R.) To establish a joint police district, to modify the membership of a joint police district governing body, to expand the offense of solicitation to also apply to a person who agrees with another to engage with the other person in sexual activity for hire, to provide that the "prescription exemption" from the drug possession offenses does not apply to a person who uses more of the drug than the maximum prescribed amount per day or the maximum amount to be used within the prescription timeline or who administers or takes the drug in a manner not prescribed by the prescribing health professional, and to provide immunity from civil liability to a peace officer who administers naloxone to a person who is apparently experiencing an opioid-related overdose. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Senate Ways & Means (Committee Record) (**Chr. Peterson, B., 466-8156**), **South Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.**

HB 9 **TAX EXPENDITURES** (Boose, T.) To create a Tax Expenditure Review Committee for the purpose of periodically reviewing existing and proposed tax expenditures. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

SB 264 **TAX HOLIDAY** (Bacon, K.) To provide for a permanent three-day sales tax "holiday" each August during which sales of back-to-school clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use taxes. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB 233 **REDEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS** (Schuring, K.) To authorize municipal corporations to create downtown redevelopment districts and innovation districts for the purposes of promoting the rehabilitation of historic buildings, creating jobs, encouraging economic development in commercial and mixed-use areas, and supporting grants and loans to technology-oriented and other businesses. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

House Transportation & Infrastructure (Committee Record) (**Chr. Boose, T., 466-9628**), **Rm. 122, 9:30 a.m.**

SB 182 **ROAD NAMING** (Balderson, T., Peterson, B.) To designate a portion of United States route twenty-three within Pickaway County as the "Army Specialist Gerald R. Jenkins Memorial Highway" and a portion of United States route sixty-two within Pickaway County as the "Army PFC Kevin C. Ott Memorial Highway." (1st Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments, substitute & vote)

HB 461 **LICENSE PLATE** (Roegner, K.) To establish the Cuyahoga Valley National Park license plate and to require a \$15 contribution for the issuance of the license plate. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Senate Insurance (Committee Record) (Chr. Hottinger, J., 466-5838), South Hearing Rm., 10:30 a.m.

HB 207 WORKERS COMPENSATION (Henne, M., McColley, R.) To allow a state fund employer to have a workers' compensation claim that is likely to be subrogated by a third party paid from the surplus fund account in the state insurance fund rather than charged to the employer's experience (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 273 CORPORATE GOVERNANCE (Bacon, K.) To enact the Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure Act. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 27 FIREFIGHTER CANCER (Patton, T.) To provide that a firefighter who is disabled as a result of specified types of cancer is presumed for purposes of the laws governing workers' compensation and the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund to have incurred the cancer while performing official duties as a firefighter. (3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)

House Session (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 11 a.m.

Senate Public Utilities (Committee Record) (Chr. Seitz, B., 466-8068), North Hearing Rm., 11 a.m.

- **Confirmation hearing on governor's appointment of Andre Porter, chairman, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio**

House Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Amstutz, R., 466-1474), Rm. 119, 11:30 a.m. or after session

Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Faber, K., 466-7584), Majority Conf. Rm., 11:30 a.m.

House Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. McClain, J., 644-6265), Rm. 121, 1:30 p.m. or after session

HB 334 TAX EXEMPTION (Buchy, J.) To exempt memberships to gyms or other recreational facilities operated by nonprofit organizations from sales and use taxation. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB 297 TAX CREDIT (Hill, B.) To authorize a refundable income tax credit for current livestock owners who invest in a manure storage or treatment facility or acquire manure application equipment or manure handling and transportation equipment. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Government Accountability & Oversight (Committee Record) (Chr. Brown, T., 466-8104), Rm. 114, 1:30 p.m.

HB 444 ALCOHOL SAMPLES (Blessing, L.) To allow certain D liquor permit holders to provide free tasting samples of beer, wine, and spirituous liquor to a person who is 21 years old or older and a paying customer of the permit holder. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 351 LIQUOR LAWS (Perales, R., DeVitis, T.) To increase the amount of spirituous liquor that an A-3a liquor permit holder may annually manufacture and to allow an A-3a permit holder to obtain an A-1-A liquor permit. (6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB 278 **HUMANE SOCIETIES** (Hambley, S.) To require approval by the board of county commissioners, instead of the probate judge, of appointments of agents by county humane societies outside a municipal corporation, to specify that a county humane society is a political subdivision, to make its directors, agents, officers, and employees subject to the Ethics Law, and to increase the salaries paid to the agents. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

Senate Session (Chr. Faber, K., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

House Education (Committee Record) (Chr. Brenner, A., 466-6711), Rm. 121, 2 p.m. or after session

- SB3 and ODE presentation removed from the agenda

HB 441 **SCHOOL ACTIVITIES** (McColley, R.) To permit a student enrolled in a nonpublic school to participate in interscholastic activities at a school district that is not the student's resident district under certain circumstances and to prohibit a student who participates in the College Credit Plus program from being denied the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics solely due to participation in the program. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 383 **FINANCIAL LITERACY** (Hagan, C., McColley, R.) To require one-half unit of economic and financial literacy in the high school social studies curriculum, to require the Chancellor of Higher Education to prepare an informed student document for each state institution of higher education, to require the State Board of Education to include information on the informed student document in the standards and model curricula it creates for financial literacy and entrepreneurship, and to entitle the act the "Informed Student Document Act." (2nd Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 401 **PRIVATE SCHOOLS** (Brinkman, T.) With regard to requirements for chartered nonpublic schools. (3rd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 410 **TRUANCY** (Rezabek, J., Hayes, B.) With regard to habitual and chronic truancy and compulsory school attendance. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

Senate State & Local Government (Committee Record) (Chr. LaRose, F., 466-4823), North Hearing Rm., 2:30 p.m. or after session

SB 257 **REAL PROPERTY** (Seitz, B., Skindell, M.) To create a presumption of validity of recorded real property instruments, reduce the time period for curing certain defects related to those instruments, and provide constructive notice for those instruments. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 359 **ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY** (Duffey, M., Gonzales, A.) To create an address confidentiality program for victims of domestic violence, menacing by stalking, human trafficking, trafficking in persons, rape, or sexual battery. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 158 **DISABILITY TERMS** (Dever, J., Howse, S.) To change the variations of the term "mentally retarded" to "person with an intellectual disability." (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

- HB 242** **DAY DESIGNATION** (Hagan, C., Dever, J.) To designate the fourth Sunday of July as Blue Star Mothers Day. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
House Judiciary (Committee Record) (Chr. Butler, J., 644-6008), Rm. 116, 3:30 p.m.
- HB 347** **CIVIL FORFEITURES** (McColley, R., Brinkman, T.) To eliminate civil asset forfeiture proceedings and to modify the law governing criminal asset forfeitures. (7th Hearing-Possible amendments & vote)
- SB 215** **VEHICLE FORCIBLE ENTRY** (Hughes, J., LaRose, F.) To grant a person immunity from civil liability for any damage resulting from the forcible entry of a motor vehicle for the purpose of removing a minor or an animal from the vehicle because the minor or the animal is in imminent danger of suffering harm. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 446** **OVI OFFENSES** (Manning, N.) To specify that the prison term that may be imposed for a third degree felony operating a vehicle while intoxicated ("OVI") offense is a definite period of twelve, eighteen, twenty-four, thirty, thirty-six, forty-two, forty-eight, fifty-four, or sixty months, to add "harmful intoxicant" to the definition of "drug of abuse" for the purposes of commercial driver's licensing law, to allow a person to assert the existing affirmative defense of driving in an emergency with regard to a prosecution for driving under a suspended driver's license under specified laws, and to specify that certain enhanced penalties for speeding violations apply regardless of whether the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to speeding. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible amendments)
- HB 451** **PROTECTION ORDERS** (Boose, T.) To provide that an individual's statutory priority to decide whether or not to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment for the individual's relative is forfeited if the individual is the subject of a temporary protection order or civil protection order and the relative is the alleged victim or if the individual and the relative are married and the parties to a divorce, dissolution, legal separation, or annulment proceeding. (2nd Hearing-Sponsor-Possible amendments)
- HB 439** **VOYEURISM** (Anielski, M.) To include an impaired person as a victim of voyeurism and to include conduct involving an impaired person within the offenses of pandering obscenity involving a minor, pandering sexually oriented matter involving a minor, and illegal use of a minor in a nudity-oriented material or performance. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 432** **ESTATE LAW** (Rezabek, J.) To revise the law governing decedent's estates by making changes in the Ohio Trust Code, the Probate Law, the Uniform Principal and Income Act, the Transfers to Minors Act, and the Uniform Simultaneous Death Act. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 436** **DUI SENTENCES** (Cupp, R., Rogers, J.) To authorize a judge that grants limited driving privileges to a second-time OVI offender to order the termination of the mandatory immobilization order. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 222** **TRANSIT WORKER ASSAULTS** (Driehaus, D., Perales, R.) To increase the penalty for assault when the victim is an employee of an Ohio transit

system whom the offender knows or has reasonable cause to know is such an employee engaged in the performance of the victim's duties; to permit the court to impose a fine of up to \$5000 and a six-month or lifetime prohibition from riding an Ohio transit system for assault committed in such specified circumstances; to authorize Ohio transit systems to post a warning sign indicating that abuse or assault of staff will not be tolerated and might result in a felony conviction; and to increase the penalty for evading payment of the known fares of a public transportation system. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 363

JUVENILE HEARINGS (Reece, A.) To require restraints to be removed from an alleged or adjudicated delinquent child prior to the commencement of a juvenile court hearing or proceeding unless the court determines that the use of restraints is necessary to prevent physical harm to the child or another person or to prevent the child from escaping. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Public Safety (Committee Record) (Chr. Johnson, T., 466-2124), Rm. 017, 3:30 p.m.

HB 173

VETERAN IDENTIFICATION (Anielski, M., Terhar, L.) To authorize county recorders to issue Ohio veterans identification cards. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute & vote)

HB 295

LICENSE PLATE (Ruhl, M.) To create the "Global War on Terrorism Civilian Service Medal" license plate. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 104

LICENSE PLATE DISPLAY (DeVitis, T.) To specify that failure to display a license plate on the front of a motor vehicle that is required to display a license plate on the front and rear of the vehicle is a secondary traffic offense, to establish a maximum fine of \$25 for such an offense, and to amend the version of section 4503.21 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect January 1, 2017, to continue the provisions of this act on and after that effective date. (3rd Hearing-Possible vote)

HB 388

OVI OFFENSES (Scherer, G.) To authorize a court to grant unlimited driving privileges with an ignition interlock device to first-time OVI offenders, to expand the penalties related to ignition interlock device violations, to modify the law governing the installation and monitoring of ignition interlock devices, to extend the look back period for OVI and OVI-related offenses from six to ten years, and to modify the penalties for OVI offenses. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

Sunset Review Committee (Committee Record) (Chr. Brown, T., 466-8104), South Hearing Rm., 3:30 p.m.

- **Agency reports from Reclamation Commission, Reclamation Forfeiture Fund Advisory Board, Board of Cosmetology, Optical Dispensers Board, Child Care Advisory Council, Child Support Guideline Advisory Council, Children's Trust Fund Board, Unemployment Compensation Advisory Council, State Victims Assistance Advisory Committee, Ohio Expositions Commission, Data Collection and Analysis Group, Dentist Loan Repayment Advisory Board, Help Me Grow Advisory Council, Hospital Measures Advisory Council, Infant Hearing Screening Subcommittee, Infection Control Group, Intergovernmental Council**

and Advisory Panel of the Lupus Educational and Awareness Program, Legislative Committee on Public Health Futures, Maternity and Newborn Advisory Council, Medically Handicapped Children's Medical Advisory Council, Physician Loan Repayment Advisory Board, Radiation Advisory Council, The Director of Health's Advisory Group on Violent Deaths, The Director of Health's Committee on Concussions and Head Injuries Sustained by Athletes, Council to Advise on the Establishment and Implementation of the Birth Defects Information System and Ohio Medical Quality Foundation

Agency Calendar

Board of Landscape Architects, 77 S. High St., 31st Flr. Board Room, Columbus, 9 a.m.

Southern Ohio Agricultural & Community Development Foundation, Foundation Office, 100 S. High St., Hillsboro, 9:30 a.m. (Agriculture Development Subcommittee)

Racing Commission, 77 South High St., Room 1960, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Southern Ohio Agricultural & Community Development Foundation, Foundation Office, 100 S. High St., Hillsboro, 11:30 a.m. (Educational Subcommittee)

Public Facilities Commission, 35th Fl., 30 E. Broad St., Columbus, 4 p.m.

Event Planner

Nevada Republican caucuses

Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' (OFSWCD) 73rd annual conservation partnership conference, Renaissance Hotel, 50 N. 3rd St., Columbus
Quinnipiac University to release poll of Ohio likely voters on presidential primary
Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber Legislative Breakfast Reception, Athletic Club of Columbus, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

Ohio senators, faith leaders, others news conference on ending "pregnancy discrimination", Press Conf. Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 11 a.m.

Rep. John Bocchieri (D-Poland) fundraiser, The Chintz Room, 121 S. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000, \$500, \$250 to John Bocchieri for Ohio Committee)

Ohio Council of Retail Merchants annual legislative reception, The Lounge at the Athletic Club of Columbus, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m.

Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Tally Ho Room, 136 East Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Event Host \$1,000, Event Sponsor \$500, Individual \$350 to Citizens for Lehner)

Sen. Frank LaRose (R-Copley) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, The Gold Room, 136 East Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Event Host \$1,000, Event Sponsor \$500, Individual Attendee: \$350 to LaRose for Senate)

Rep. Stephen Slesnick (D-Canton) fundraiser, The Chintz Room, 121 S. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000, \$500, \$250 to Committee to Elect Stephen Slesnick)

Rep. Jim Butler (R-Oakwood) and Sen. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Butler for Ohio and/or Seitz for Senate Committee)

Conservative Energy Day Reception, Statehouse Museum Gallery, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (RSVP to Mike Hartley at mike@swingstatestrategies.com)

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From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2016 7:57 AM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: Super Tuesday has nothing on Buckeye's Super Wednesday

This e-mail is best viewed [with images.](#)

Buckeye Institute News Alert

The Buckeye Institute released a series of the top 5 most ridiculous budget requests and the media took note, even when politics was a big story yesterday. We are proud of the press coverage as well as one of our super interns whose research uncovered these outrageous items that the state government has been asked to fund with your money.



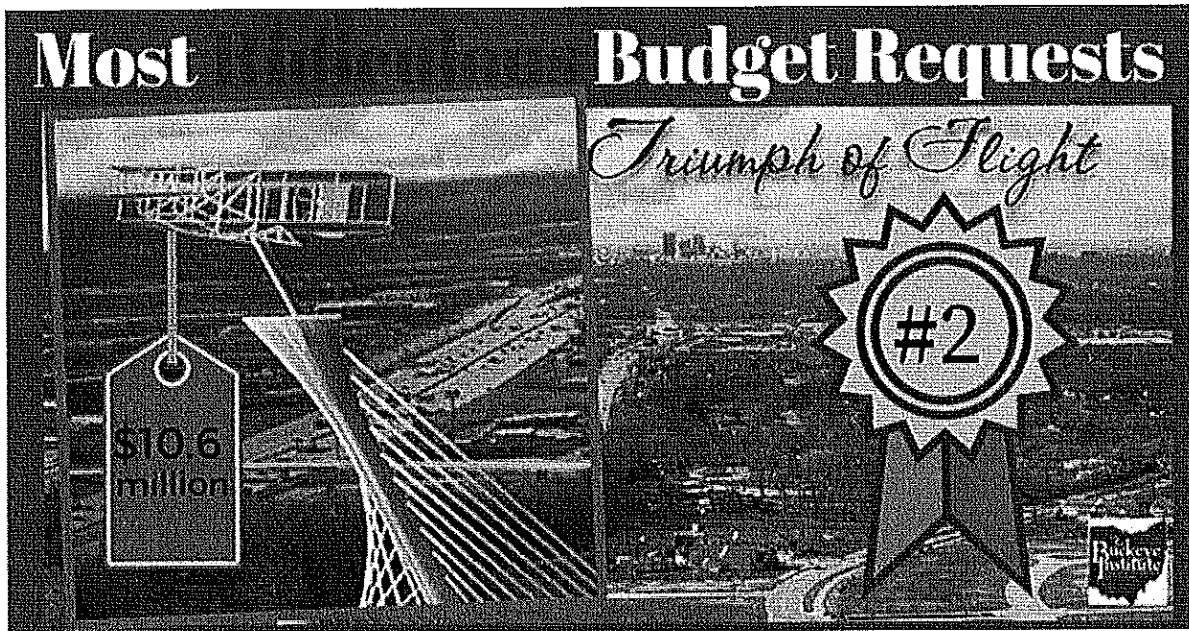
The

Cleveland Plain Dealer said it even better than we could when it cited The Buckeye Institute's Top 5 Most Ridiculous Budget Requests

(please insert your own drumroll here): the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is the "#1 Most Ridiculous Budget Request" to Ohio legislators this year.

We noted that the Rock Hall has received more than \$125 Million in tax money from state and local governments since it opened in 1995. It is time for this rock legend to end its addiction to taxpayer money cold turkey.

The Dayton Daily News noted the #2 item on The Buckeye Institute's list of "Most Ridiculous Budget Requests" as well.



Top 5 Most Ridiculous Budget Requests

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

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The Buckeye Institute | 88 East Broad Street | Suite 1120 | Columbus | OH | 43215

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2016 8:07 AM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: Buckeye Policy Ideas Become Centerpiece of New Healthcare Access Bills

Buckeye Institute News Alert

Contact: Dennis Cauchon
(614) 224-4422 or Dennis@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 9, 2016

The Buckeye Institute's Policy Ideas Incorporated into New Healthcare Access Bills Proposed legislation would cut red tape for volunteer and mobile medical care in Ohio

COLUMBUS, OHIO--The Buckeye Institute's longtime advocacy of expanding healthcare access and charity care--especially in low-income and underserved areas of Ohio--has found expression in two bills introduced to Ohio's General Assembly in the past 24 hours.

These two companion bills reflect the policy ideas outlined in The Buckeye Institute's report, [Expanding Access to Healthcare in Ohio](#), which was released in November.

"Eliminating red tape and expanding the ability of charities to offer healthcare to low-income and underserved areas is an important step toward narrowing the gap between demand and supply in Ohio," says Rea Hederman, Jr., executive vice president and director of the Economic Research Center at The Buckeye Institute.

The two bills were introduced respectively in the Ohio House and Senate by Rep. Robert Sprague, R-Findlay, and Sen. Peggy Lehner, R-Kettering. If passed, these bills will:

- Allow volunteer and charity care to count as continuing education credits for physicians, nurses, dentists, and many other licensed healthcare providers.
- Provide limited legal immunity to licensed, out-of-state healthcare professionals who come to Ohio and provide volunteer medical care for short periods of time.
- Expand free clinics and other charity care providers' ability to operate mobile care centers to bring healthcare to areas with chronic provider shortages.



Lehner

Sen. Peggy Lehner, vice chair of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee: "This is an opportunity to empower healthcare professionals in Ohio to help those who need care most desperately. The state of Ohio would save millions by allowing our healthcare professionals to volunteer their services without fear of civil liability."



Sprague

Rep. Robert Sprague, a member of the House Health and Aging Committee: "This legislation will help Ohioans in underserved communities have increased access to healthcare services. This bill strengthens Ohio's volunteer care system. It will enable our medical professionals to offer their time and talents, while granting liability protections and allowing them to earn continuing education hours."



Miller

Deborah Miller, executive director of the Ohio Association of Free Clinics: "As volunteer driven healthcare organizations, free clinics across Ohio will benefit greatly from this proposed legislation. Volunteer physicians, nurses and medical professionals will now have, not only the increased protection from liability, but also the ability to earn educational credit while meeting the needs of Ohio's underserved."

Expanding Access to Healthcare in Ohio Report

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 8:37 AM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: New jobs report for January indicates positive news for Ohio

Buckeye Institute News Alert

Contact: Joe Nichols
(614) 224-4422 or Joe@BuckeyeInstitute.org

March 14, 2015

JANUARY JOBS NUMBERS INDICATE STRONG START FOR 2016

Ohio's economic progress looks even better with Buckeye's redesigned jobs report!

COLUMBUS, OHIO--The Buckeye Institute is pleased to roll out our newly redesigned

Ohio Jobs Tracker (formerly known as our *Ohio by the Numbers report*) along with today's release of January state jobs numbers from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. This monthly labor market report charts 5 core economic indicators and also highlights a different aspect of the Ohio economy each month.

[Click here](#) to view the newly designed *Ohio Jobs Tracker* report for January 2016

Ohio's economy enjoyed a strong start to 2016. The private sector added 7,700 jobs in January, and the labor force participation rate increased for the fourth month in a row. However, jobs numbers for the mining and logging sector were revised downward significantly. The updated data show that mining and logging employment has fallen nearly 20% in the last year as low oil and gas prices and a weak coal market have forced many companies to cut jobs. This turmoil is a devastating blow to the communities and families who depend on that sector.

Key data points:

- **Unemployment rate.** The jobless rate rose to 4.9% in January, up from 4.8% a month earlier but down from 5.1% a year earlier.
- **Labor force participation rate.** The percentage of working-age Ohioans who have a job or are looking for work rose to 62.6% in January, up from 62.3% a month earlier.
- **Total jobs.** Ohio added 100 total jobs compared to the previous month (seasonally adjusted) and 80,800 jobs from a year earlier.
- **Private jobs.** Ohio added 7,700 private sector jobs from the previous month and 79,000 jobs from a year earlier.
- **Labor force.** The total number of Ohioans who have a job or are unemployed and looking for work rose by 28,000 in January to 5,722,000.

Major employment changes by sector during January:

Winners

- **Real estate and rental and leasing.** The industry added 1,400 jobs, up 2.2%.
- **Information.** The sector gained 1,600 jobs, a 1.4% increase.

Losers

- **Mining and logging.** The industry saw a 1.6% drop.
- **Federal government.** This sector employed 900 fewer people, a loss of 1.2% of its workforce.

Ohio Jobs Tracker

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute, 88 E. Broad Street, Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 11:21 AM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: Justice Antonin Scalia Remembered - March 29 Event

Event Invitation

Although it is not a Buckeye Institute event, you are cordially invited to attend an upcoming event being hosted by the Columbus Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society honoring the legacy of Justice Antonin Scalia.

Justice Antonin Scalia Remembered: The Legacy of a Supreme Court Legend

A Lunchtime Discussion Featuring:

THE HON. JEFFREY S. SUTTON

JUDGE, UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS, SIXTH CIRCUIT,

AND CLERK TO JUSTICES SCALIA AND POWELL, 1991-1992

BENJAMIN M. FLOWERS

**ASSOCIATE, JONES DAY,
AND CLERK TO JUSTICE SCALIA, 2014-2015**

The Columbus Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society cordially invites you to a luncheon honoring Justice Scalia's nearly 30 years of indelible jurisprudence on the Supreme Court. Please join us in paying tribute to a stalwart defender of the Constitution where we will enjoy personal reflections by two of his clerks.

Justice Scalia served as the first faculty advisor to the Federalist Society student chapter at the University of Chicago. He spoke at countless Federalist Society events over the years, and relished intellectual debates about interpretation and other matters. We look forward to what promises to be a warm celebration and remembrance of a legendary justice, and hope you can make it.

The cost is \$20 (\$15 if you already paid Columbus Lawyers Chapter dues for the 2015-2016 program year and \$5 for students). Lunch is included. R.S.V.P. online at FedSocMarch29.eventbrite.com by March 25 to guarantee your seat, meal, and pre-printed nametag. Call Erin Sutter at (614) 224-4422 or email ColumbusFedSoc@Gmail.com with any questions. To join or renew your dues for the Columbus Lawyers Chapter, please bring a check for an additional \$25 payable to The Federalist Society or pay the dues through the Eventbrite website.

RSVP

The Buckeye Institute,
88 East Broad Street, Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

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Sent by manager@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 8:08 AM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: The Media is Rightly Focusing on Ohio and The Buckeye Institute

Buckeye Institute News Alert

Major publications worldwide have been reaching out to The Buckeye Institute for our insights on Ohio's slow-but-steady move toward lower taxes and freer markets.

The Buckeye Institute was the go-to free market source for reporters from the New York Times to the Wall Street Journal last week as they evaluated competing claims about Ohio's economic policies in recent years. We helped explain the situation and provide objective analysis.



The New York Times

"By Ohio standards, Governor Kasich has a good economic record. The key phrase is 'by Ohio standards.'"

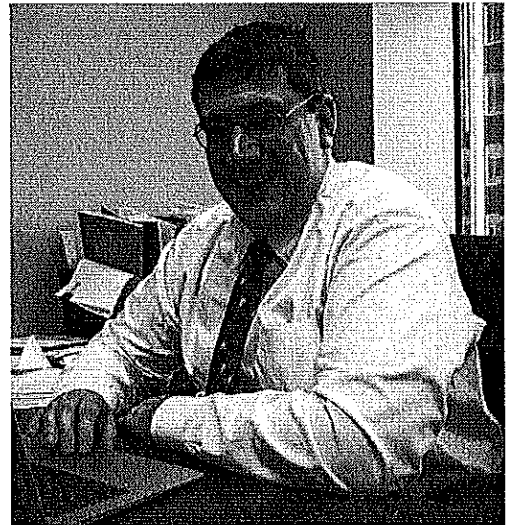
-- Rea S. Hederman, Jr., Executive Vice
President, The Buckeye Institute

The Buckeye Institute doesn't do politics, as you know. But we do speak the objective, non-partisan truth about economic policies--regardless of the political winds.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

"The Buckeye Institute has openly opposed several of Mr. Kasich's policy choices, including his ill-advised ObamaCare Medicaid expansion. But when it came time to tighten the Columbus money valve and return responsibility to local leaders, Gov. Kasich made the right call and deserves far more credit than he's received."

-- Greg R. Lawson, Policy
Analyst, The Buckeye Institute



As you may have already seen, last week we also rolled out a new monthly employment report, Ohio Jobs Tracker. That well-timed publication helped explain Ohio's strong new employment numbers - 12,400 new jobs created in February - and put our economic policy experts back in the news once again, in print publications and on the radio.

If you haven't yet followed The Buckeye Institute on social media, please do check out our Twitter and Facebook where we post even more instant updates and other fun content.

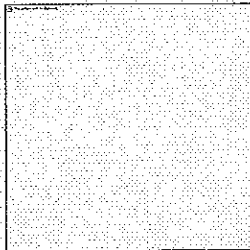
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Sent by [info@buckeyeinstitute.org](#)

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2016 1:08 PM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: Emily Dickinson's Hope and February's Ohio Jobs Tracker



Buckeye Institute News Alert

Contact: Joe Nichols
(614) 224-4422 or
Joe@BuckeyeInstitute.org

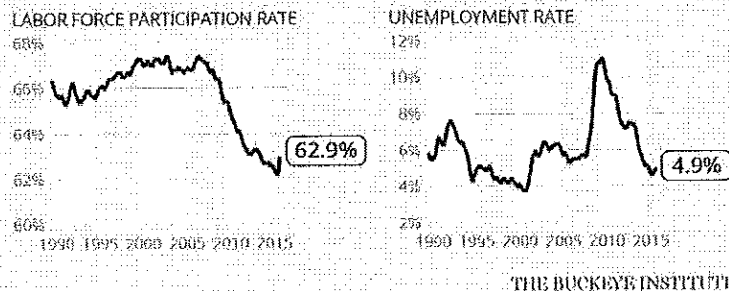
March 24, 2015

A Miraculous Month for the Ohio Labor Force **Labor force participation rate sees biggest monthly jump in more than 26 years**

COLUMBUS, OHIO--Call it an Easter Miracle (alternately, feel free to substitute your own personally preferred religious metaphor if necessary) or call it an indication that there is still hope for jobs in the Buckeye state, but the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) will be releasing some heartening news tomorrow. Emily Dickinson would approve.

The Buckeye Institute's *Ohio Jobs Tracker* database goes back more than 26 years. For each and every month since January 1990, The Buckeye Institute has steadfastly compiled and analyzed labor reports and data released by the BLS. But never during these past 26 years has the labor force participation rate in Ohio increased as much as it did this February.

Ohio Unemployment: February 2016



"The February 2016 jobs report offers record-setting news for Ohio as thousands of people entered the labor force and found jobs," said Rea S. Hederman, Jr., Executive Vice President of The Buckeye Institute.

Ohio Jobs Tracker

The unemployment rate didn't change--despite an increase of 6,000 more unemployed people--providing an even more powerful signal of improving economic health in Ohio.

Despite the exceedingly positive news, there is still room for improvement in the Ohio economy--as our Stat of the Month indicates: those Ohioans who are unemployed are still typically out of a job for approximately one month longer than they would have been before the recession.

As a tribute to the excellent labor force participation increase, we commend to your attention the sweet sentiment of Emily Dickinson:

*Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul*

*And sings the tune without the words
And never stops at all*

*And sweetest in the Gale is heard
And sore must be the storm
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm*

*I've heard it in the chilliest land
And on the strangest Sea
Yet never in Extremity
It asked a crumb of me.*

###

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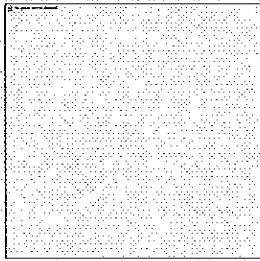
Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2016 1:32 PM

To: Derksen, Nick

Subject: SCOTUS split 4-4 on *Friedrichs* case yesterday: Buckeye's response? Until we meet again...



Buckeye Institute News Alert

In the wake of yesterday's decision in *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association*, The Buckeye Institute offered commentary across the state and around the country to help make sense of the Supreme Court's ruling. We continue to fight for the First Amendment rights of all public employees.

The Supreme Court 4-4 decision in the *Friedrichs* case was not surprising in its result, but the timing was certainly unexpected.

Contrary to the assertions of groups that opposed the First Amendment rights of workers, which prematurely praised the Supreme Court for deciding that mandating speech is good policy, the decision yesterday did no such thing. Buckeye President Robert Alt wrote a piece for National Review that is worth a read, in which he explains the significance of the case and this "non-decision."

Alt, a legal and constitutional scholar, has written extensively on this case in national legal publications. The Buckeye Institute filed an amicus brief with the Supreme Court in this case as well arguing that public school teachers, including lead plaintiff Rebecca Friedrichs, should not be forced to pay fees to unions in support of speech with which they disagree. In a conference call yesterday hosted by The Federalist Society discussing the outcome of *Friedrichs*, preeminent law professor Richard Epstein of the New York University School of Law praised Buckeye's *amicus* brief as being among the best filed in the case.

Robert Alt was at the Supreme Court on January 11 during oral arguments in the case to show support to plaintiff Rebecca Friedrichs and to stand behind The Buckeye Institute's *amicus* brief.

After the Supreme Court's decision came down yesterday, Alt fielded dozens of reporters' questions, held a press advisory conference call, and gave a radio interview to Associated Press Ohio through WOSU public radio that provided more context for the decision. The radio hit is short and worth a listen.



Newspapers from the Columbus Dispatch to Dayton Daily News and the Twinsburg Bulletin to the Crescent-News cited Buckeye, and we are pleased to continue The Buckeye Institute's streak of publicly commenting on timely and important policy and legal issues, particularly ones where we have been actively fighting for good policy to prevail.

Twenty-five states, including Ohio, still force public employees to pay some union agency fees in order to keep their jobs, even if the employees disagree with the political speech the unions support with those funds. The *Friedrichs* case demonstrates the necessity of replacing Justice Scalia with someone who will continue to uphold our constitutional rights to free speech. And it demonstrates the necessity of continuing to fight every day to ensure that the First Amendment rights of all public-sector workers are protected.

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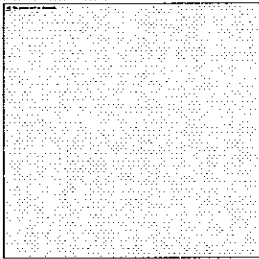
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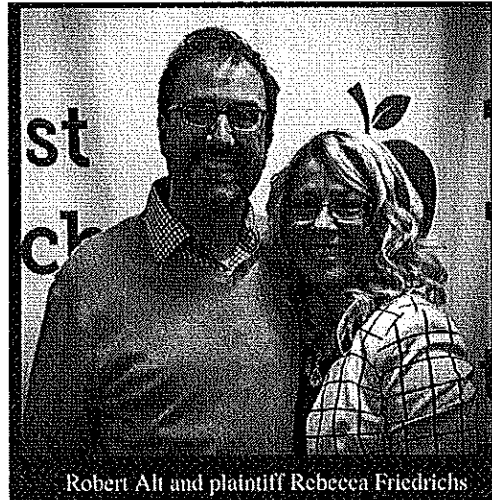
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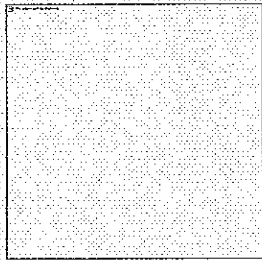
Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2016 1:36 PM

To: Derksen, Nick

Subject: Bad energy policy is not a good look--for anyone: Handouts undermine the free market



Buckeye Institute News Alert

Contact: Joe Nichols
614-224-4422
Joe@BuckeyeInstitute.org

March 31, 2016

UTILITIES COMMISSION STIFLES COMPETITION

In announcing its handouts to FirstEnergy and AEP today, PUCO hurt Ohio customers and sided against the free market

COLUMBUS--Ohio's economy has benefited from regulatory reforms that opened up the electricity market to competition. Unfortunately, today the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) announced a rollback of this important energy policy by granting handouts to two of the largest, most powerful electric utilities in the state, the costs for which will no doubt be passed along to customers.

FirstEnergy and American Electric Power (AEP) asked the PUCO to approve a contract that would force customers to pay higher prices in order to prop up struggling power plants. Other power companies would be more than happy to buy the plants in question and operate them more cost effectively, or build new, more efficient plants.

Bad energy policies such as the Obama Administration's war on coal and federal mandates as well as generous subsidies and state renewable power

requirements spurred the utility companies to seek these agreements. However, the right thing for the PUCO to do is to call for immediate and comprehensive changes to these bad energy policies, rather than issuing handouts that will create significant problems for the state and, most importantly, ratepayers in the long run.

Competitors of FirstEnergy and AEP have already appealed to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to override PUCO's decision, and have also threatened to sue.

"This income guarantee will hurt Ohioans for sure. In the short term, it raises power costs for AEP and FirstEnergy customers. In the long term, it slows economic growth and throws a wrench into the gears of the free and competitive electric market," said The Buckeye Institute's energy policy analyst Joe Nichols. "Fortunately, federal energy regulators and the courts will probably have a chance to reverse this unwise decision."

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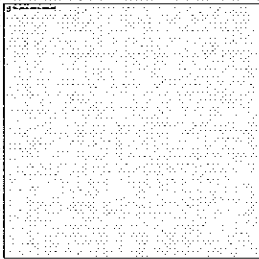
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2016 1:40 PM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: New Buckeye Report Released Today in Anticipation of Capital Budget:
Watch the Pork



Buckeye Institute News Alert

Contact: Greg R. Lawson
614-224-4422
Greg@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 4, 2016

Ohio's new capital budget is soon to be unveiled. It will likely clock in at around \$2 billion with approximately \$150 million of state funds set aside to fund local pet projects.

The Buckeye Institute's latest report, *Watch the Pork: Focus State Dollars on Essential Government Services*, explains why Ohio's General Assembly should not redistribute hard-earned taxpayer dollars to fund what amounts to localized pork. Further, every dollar spent this way is one less dollar spent on the services and infrastructure taxpayers really demand.

The state's capital budget should be primarily concerned with the *"repair, reconstruction and construction of capital assets of state agencies, colleges, universities and school districts"* as outlined by the Office of Budget and Management. Regrettably, in most budget cycles, hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars are often siphoned away from these statewide priorities to pay for an array of local and regional projects, such as museums, statues, and athletic facilities.

These local projects should not be funded with state funds that can be better spent providing and improving essential government services. Local recreational interests should be funded with local dollars and private support.

Report author Greg R. Lawson said, "At a time where critical infrastructure needs are emerging across the state, spending state dollars on items that should be paid for locally is not an optimal use of scarce resources. Ohio policymakers should focus on what is really needed to help the state prosper while letting local taxpayers make local decisions."

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2016 3:19 PM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: Ohio Report, Monday, April 11, 2016
Attachments: Apr11.htm; Apr11House.htm; 160411dayplan.htm



GONGWER Ohio
The Record of Capitol Square Since 1906

Ohio Report for Monday, April 11, 2016

House, Senate Chairs Set Criminal Justice Legislative Priorities For Coming Months

Sunset Review Process About Half Completed; Committee Expected To Wrap Up Work In May

OCMC Subcommittee To Present Congressional Redistricting Proposal Thursday

Bill Would Create Registry Of Parkinson's Patients To Aid In Research, Treatment

Graduates, ODE Tout First-Year Results Of Adult Diploma Program

AEP Names New Ohio COO; EDF Praises Kasich Administration For New Leak Detection Measure For Oil And Gas Facilities...

High Court To Hear Public Records Case Next Week; Oral Arguments Set In Five Other Cases

National Report: Ohio's Affordable Housing Lags Behind Needs Of Low Income Renters

Education Notes: 44 Applicants Seeking Superintendent Job; AG Says College, University Foundations Can Be Audited

Agency Briefs: Elevated Lead Levels Found In Statehouse Drinking Fountain; ODNR Awards Marine Patrol Grants; OEPA; Civil Rights...

Politics Notebook: Strickland Proposes Five Debates, Portman Campaign Aims To Contact 50K Voters; Buckeye Institute Slams Capital Bill; Planned Parenthood And Ohio Right To Life To Hit Statehouse...

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

Activity Reports

House

Calendars

Day Planner

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Volume #85, Report #69 -- Monday, April 11, 2016

House, Senate Chairs Set Criminal Justice Legislative Priorities For Coming Months

The legislator who leads the Senate Criminal Justice Committee said his goal for the group over the next several months is to avoid interfering with the work of the Criminal Recodification Committee.

Chairman Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) said in an interview he does not want to move legislation before lawmakers break for the summer that could be at odds with recommendations from the committee charged with reviewing the state's criminal codes.

"I want to avoid doing anything that is going to be disruptive of the work that the Recodification Committee is doing," he said.

However, Sen. Eklund, a member of the ad hoc panel, also said his standing committee is "not going to be paralyzed."

One of his legislative priorities, he said, is a bipartisan bill (HB 164) sponsored by Rep. John Rodgers (D-Mentor-on-the-Lake) and Rep. Dorothy Pelanda (R-Marysville).

The measure, which already cleared the House, allows non-violent ex-offenders to have their records sealed if they have complied with all court ordered sanctions. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 24, 2016)

"That strikes me as a positive initiative," Sen. Eklund said.

Although acknowledging that the legislation may be too complex to move through the committee before the General Assembly's summer recess, Sen. Eklund said another bill he is very interested in is one that would end the death penalty for those that suffer from certain severe mental illnesses at the time of their crimes.

Sponsored by Sen. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) and Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland), the bill (SB 162) is facing opposition from the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 27, 2016)

"It's a big bill. It's an important bill. I don't know that it's something that we can get done that quickly," Sen. Eklund said, adding that discussions with OPAA are ongoing.

Another measure he hopes to get to the Senate floor that he does not feel would conflict with the work of the Recodification Committee is a bill (HB 151) sponsored by Rep. Marlene Anielski (R-Independence) designed to combat cyber stalking. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 7, 2015)

On the House side, Chairman Rep. Jim Butler (R-Oakwood), who said he has been in close contact with members of the Recodification Committee, has several legislation priorities he desires to move through the House Judiciary Committee in the coming months. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 29, 2016)

One is a bill (SB 76) sponsored by Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park) and Sen. Gayle Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) that specifies the actual servicing of a protective order or consent agreement to the targeted individual isn't necessary for a violation charge if the person knew of the order and "recklessly violated" its terms. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 30, 2015)

The measure was introduced after the Ohio Supreme Court overturned the conviction of a man because he had not been officially served with a protective order by an officer of the court.

"There some disagreement between the House and Senate on this issue, but I'm optimistic we can come up with a compromise on this bill," Rep. Butler said.

Another priority, according to Rep. Butler is a bill (SB 215) sponsored by Sen. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) and Sen. Frank LaRose (R-Copley Twp.) that would provide civil immunity to those who break into cars to rescue animals or children. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 10, 2016)

"In general I think the concept is a correct one," Rep. Butler said.

He said he also expects to take up a measure (HB 307) sponsored by Rep. Pelanda designed to provide judges with more discretion in imposing driver's license suspensions for drug-related offenses that did not involve a vehicle. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 13, 2015)

Also likely to be a priority for the committee, according to Rep. Butler, is a bill (HB 283) to require DNA testing for certain misdemeanor sex crimes and another bill (HB 268) designed to make it easier for victims of human trafficking to expunge their records.

"I do hope we'll be able to pass those out of committee," Rep. Butler said.

Sunset Review Process About Half Completed; Committee Expected To Wrap Up Work In May

About halfway through the Sunset Review process, dozens of entities have said their services are no longer needed.

"We already have a decent number," said Sen. Kris Jordan (R-Ostrander), who chairs the Sunset Review Committee.

In fact, a total of 40 entities have asked to be sunset, including the Labor-Management Government Advisory Council, the Ohio Parks and Recreation Council and the Ohio Housing Study Committee.

Sen. Jordan said he expects more entities will ask to be discontinued as the process moves forward. The panel's next meeting is 3:30 p.m. Tuesday.

"There will be more," he said. "Every time we have hearings, there are a number of agencies and boards that ask to be sunset."

Not only does Sen. Jordan anticipate more entities to ask to be sunset, he also expects the committee to make some cuts of its own.

"There are a few members of the committee that are looking at additional boards and commissions to be addressed," he said, adding additional hearings would likely be necessary in that case to allow the entities to justify their continued existence.

When all is said and done, Sen. Jordan said, he does not expect the process to result in substantial savings for taxpayers. He does, however, hope the committee's work will improve the business climate across the state.

"Hopefully beyond saving some money, it will get government out of the way of different businesses and entrepreneurs," he said.

Sen. Jordan, though, would like to go farther.

"I would probably like to see more get cut than will actually get cut. But it's a committee process," he said. "There may be some on the other side that think we are going a little bit too far."

Sen. Jordan said he expects the committee to wrap up its work in May and issue a report some time thereafter.

"I'm not sure if we are actually going to get the bill passed until later in the year," he said.

Once a bill is introduced, Sen. Jordan said he hopes for it to garner widespread support.

"It depends on how far we go," he said. "I would like to get a bill that most people can agree to."

The review process occurs every six years. Nearly 80 boards, commissions and study panels were eliminated through legislation (SB171, 129th General Assembly) enacted at the end of the last Sunset Review process.

**OCMC Subcommittee To Present Congressional Redistricting Proposal
Thursday**

Members of an Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission subcommittee plan to have an updated congressional redistricting proposal formed in time for committee discussion Thursday.

The OCMC's Legislative Branch and Executive Branch Committee is scheduled to meet at 2:30 p.m. Thursday - the first meeting since a four-member subcommittee began working in February to reach a compromise agreement on revamping the redistricting process in the spirit of Issue 1.

The full committee initially intended to vote on the measure at its February meeting before several last minute amendments halted the process. Chairman Fred Mills then appointed the subcommittee to come to an agreement on those changes within six weeks. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 4, 2016)

Two months later, discussions are ongoing.

But subcommittee member Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) said in an interview that subcommittee members and staff should have a proposal finalized in time for the committee to discuss it at Thursday's meeting.

"We'll have something to present to the committee on Thursday on where we are," Sen. Tavares said. "We've had discussions with interested parties, with members of the subcommittee, and kind of gone back and forth."

Although the subcommittee has had no informal meetings since its first meeting in March, she said members and staff have continued their discussion over the last month. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 9, 2016)

She described the discussions as positive and said she expects the final proposal, which could still be changed by the committee, will honor the spirit of Issue 1, which handed over the legislative mapmaking process to a newly created bipartisan committee.

"We just want to make sure the proposal and our discussion has been focused on how the lines would be drawn and not who is drawing them, which is a good step forward," she said.

Should the subcommittee fail to reach an agreement by Thursday's meeting, members will likely still report to the committee by updating members on its progress.

"The subcommittee will probably present where they are on Thursday and our hopes are we will have something the subcommittee can say is a consensus report because we really want the rules for drawing congressional districts to be specific so it would be difficult for either party to engage in gerrymandering," Sen. Tavares said.

The Thursday unveiling would come just more than a week since Gov. John Kasich's State of the State address, in which the governor doubled down on his call for

lawmakers to embrace change to congressional redistricting. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 6, 2016)

"When pure politics is what drives these kinds of decisions the result is polarization and division," the governor said in the speech. "I think we've had enough of it."

Still, Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina) and House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) have given indications the General Assembly will be sluggish in picking up discussion of the OCMC proposal if it clears the commission.

Sen. Faber said the issue isn't part of his forthcoming agenda, while Rep. Rosenberger called legislative and congressional redistricting are "apples and oranges." (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 6, 2016)

Bill Would Create Registry Of Parkinson's Patients To Aid In Research, Treatment

A recently introduced bill would make Ohio the fifth state to track data on people who have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

The bill (HB 499), sponsored by Rep. Cheryl Grossman (R-Grove City) and Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton), would authorize the Department of Health to create a registry of patients with Parkinson's and other movement disorders.

Franklin County Auditor Clarence Mingo, who has been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and helped write the bill, joined Rep. Grossman at a Statehouse news conference Monday, saying that the database is a step toward improving care and research on the condition.

"This data is useful and absolutely necessary not only in the treatment of Parkinson's disease but also in understanding it and thereafter reaching for a cure," Mr. Mingo said.

If the bill passes, Ohio would be the fifth state to create a database of Parkinson's patients, after Utah, California, Nebraska and Washington.

"It will assist us in gathering data that will help researchers in the state and throughout the nation better understand what's happening here in the state of Ohio with that particular disease," Mr. Mingo said. "Understanding that will help us dedicate resources, it will help us identify those who need those resources to the extreme and it will also help us understand, categorially, how it is we should go about finding a cure for Parkinson's disease and otherwise treating it."

About 1 million people have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease nationwide, Mr. Mingo said, but it's unclear how many people suffer from the condition in Ohio.

"Whether it's 200,000 or 200, we need to know that and understand what's happening here in the state of Ohio with people with Parkinson's disease," he said.

The data would also help shed some light on who the condition affects. Many people who suffer from Parkinson's are elderly, and Mr. Mingo said that means the number of people diagnosed will increase as the population gets older. While the common perception is that it mostly affects, older people, he said it affects many others. Mr. Mingo is 44 and publicly announced his diagnosis in 2013.

The bill would allow ODH to draw up rules regarding exactly how the registry would work. The database would allow ODH to release summary data to show trends and help with research. It's unclear at the moment how much the program would cost.

Mr. Mingo said it would also help patients by helping connect them with others who are going through the same thing.

"When you're initially diagnosed with a condition like this your immediate instinct is to look around within your family, throughout your peers and those you know and try to see who else has this disease and what does it mean for a person's life to walk with it," he said.

Rep. Grossman said the bill is another step toward helping those suffering from Parkinson's and other movement disorders.

"Whatever we can do to help the quality of life for Ohioans in meaningful ways, there should be no hesitancy to be able to achieve that goal," she said.

Graduates, ODE Tout First-Year Results Of Adult Diploma Program

The State Board of Education on Monday recognized graduates of the state's adult diploma program, who were among 78 Ohioans to earn diplomas during the pilot year.

The program, which was created through a previous mid-biennium review budget bill (HB 483, 130th General Assembly), enrolls Ohioans ages 22 and older at community colleges and career technical centers where they can simultaneously work toward a diploma and credentials in an in-demand career field.

Stark State Community College, Pickaway-Ross Joint Vocational School, Miami Valley Career Technical Center, Cuyahoga Community College and Penta Career Center were involved in the pilot program, which began this school year. Three other sites received funding through the state budget and will begin accepting students in July. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 13, 2015)

"This is probably one of the most exciting things I've had the opportunity to participate in," said Steve Gratz, Senior Executive Director for Student Support and Education Options for the Department of Education.

"This is a game-changer for people. Not only for those individuals, for their families and their communities and so I am just so pleased," he added, saying he believes the program is the first of its kind in the country to offer a diploma issued by the State Board of Education.

Program graduates also spoke to the board, sharing emotional stories of how their lives have been changed for the better because of the credentials and job training they've received.

The state covers the cost of the program, reimbursing pilot sites as students hit milestones, Mr. Gratz said. Because the program is competency based, students work at their own paces toward diplomas.

Michelle Profit, who attended Miami Valley Career Tech, told the board that she couldn't focus in GED classes or during tests so she was never able to obtain a certificate after dropping out of high school during her sophomore year.

Twenty-six years later, she said her dreams of finishing high school have come true thanks to the state offering an additional pathway for individuals older than 21 who never graduated.

"Not only has it fulfilled my heart's desire but it has also given my family a brighter tomorrow," Ms. Profit said, adding that she earned nursing credentials through the program and now works at a hospital.

The law requires pilot sites to offer general instruction in conjunction with training for in-demand jobs that have been identified through OhioMeansJobs and the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation. To be included on the list, the job must pay at least \$12.54 per hour, which is about \$26,000 per year.

Board members offered support for the graduates, who filled the meeting room and encouraged the administration to continue the program into the next biennium.

"What you've accomplished makes you an inspiration to all of us, especially the more than one million Ohioans who don't have a diploma," Board President Tom Gunlock said.

The state budget included \$5 million in Fiscal Year 2017 to continue the expanded pilot program.

In addition to the Adult Diploma Program, the state has two other options for adults who didn't earn a high school diploma: The GED program and the 22+ program, which is tailored to those who are already employed and are just a few credits short of high school graduation.

AEP Names New Ohio COO; EDF Praises Kasich Administration For New Leak Detection Measure For Oil And Gas Facilities...

AEP has selected Senior Vice President and Treasurer Julie Sloat as the next president and chief operating officer of its Ohio utility unit.

Ms. Sloat will begin her new post May 2, the company announced Monday. She will succeed outgoing President and COO Pablo Vegas, who in March accepted an executive leadership position at Columbia Gas of Ohio parent NiSource. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 15, 2016)

AEP Executive Vice President and COO Robert Powers, who will oversee Ms. Sloat in her new role, said her regulatory and financial expertise "will serve us well as we continue our focus on making investments that provide more reliable service, develop renewable power resources and give our Ohio customers tools to control how and when they use electricity."

The company said it expects to soon name a new treasurer to succeed Ms. Sloat.

Ms. Sloat has served as senior vice president and treasurer since January 2013, according to the company, where she oversees the company's treasury, trusts and investments. Between 2009-2013, she was vice president of regulatory case management.

"As important as her business acumen, Julie is able to connect with and develop positive, mutually beneficial relationships with people," Mr. Powers said.

"A native of Bolivar, Ohio, and graduate of the Ohio State University, Julie has strong ties with Ohio companies and community organizations. She knows and loves the Buckeye State and will be focused on how AEP Ohio can best serve our customers and benefit Ohio's economy," he said.

Gas Leaks: The Environmental Defense Fund praised Gov. John Kasich's administration for new plans to reduce air pollution stemming from the oil and gas industry.

Earlier this month, the administration announced it plans to require permits for new and modified equipment at compressor stations, which would require those companies to check for leaks quarterly.

The EDF said those checks will help catch leaking Volatile Organic Compounds and methane, which it said contribute to global warming.

"We applaud Gov. Kasich for, once again, stepping forward to deliver clean air protections that Ohio communities deserve and joining other leading states in regulating harmful methane emissions," EDF President Fred Krupp said in a statement. "Today's announcement underscores that fast-growing recognition that, for natural gas to meet its promise as a lower-carbon fuel, methane emissions can't go unchecked."

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has estimated the natural gas sector could be emitting up to 1.7 million metric tons of methane.

"Requiring operators to systematically check equipment for leaks is a proven, cost-effective way to reduce harmful emissions and associated risks to public health and the environment," Senior State Regulatory and Legislative Affairs Manager Andrew Williams said. "We commend the administration for taking this important step and look forward to working with OEPA and other stakeholders to strengthen the proposal."

Ozone Standard: State regulators and interest groups are pushing back on a recent U.S. EPA white paper that they say fails to adequately account for background ozone under a newly lowered federal ozone standard.

Such ozone cannot be controlled by a state because it stems from a natural event, such as a wildfire, or enters the state from another state, according to the Center for Regulatory Solutions.

More than a dozen entities, including state agencies, air quality experts, and business groups have submitted comments protesting what they call "serious flaws" in the paper. They're arguing that the EPA's failure to account for background ozone would "unfairly punish Western states and compromise their ability to comply with the stringent" air quality guidelines adopted last year.

In October, the EPA announced a long-awaited move to lower the federal ozone standard from 75 parts per billion to 70 parts per billion. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 1, 2015)

"The agency suggests that the relief mechanisms in the statute are sufficient to address the rare instances where background ozone pushes a state out of compliance," according to the center's comments. "To the contrary, our review reveals that neither assertion is accurate or substantiated by the facts. What is clear, however, is that EPA is trying to regulate something for which the science is still not fully understood."

High Court To Hear Public Records Case Next Week; Oral Arguments Set In Five Other Cases

An attorney representing the Ohio Innocence Project next week will argue that the Ohio Supreme Court should overturn a 1994 ruling and compel the Columbus Division of Police to provide him access to the case file of a man convicted of a 2007 murder.

Cincinnati attorney Donald Caster will argue that the court's ruling in *State ex rel. Steckman v. Jackson* should be overturned because of revision to Criminal Rule 16 made in 2010, the court reported.

In *Steckman*, the court ruled that access to law enforcement evidentiary records should be determined by the discovery rules for criminal cases rather than the Ohio Public Records Act.

Mr. Caster will argue that the that 2010 rule change paved the way for the court to overturn the 1994 decision and allow for the examination of investigatory records once a trial begins.

CDP will argue that it is following the law laid out in the *Steckman* case in denying the records request of Mr. Caster.

According to the court, CDP will claim that many of the records are "specific investigatory work product," which includes personal notes, working papers, memoranda and evidentiary findings, all of which were exempted from public record law in a 1997 case.

The Innocence Network and the Ohio Coalition for Open Government have filed briefs in support of Mr. Caster's case.

The court will hear five other cases next week:

- In *Jackson v. State*, a death row inmate will appeal his sentence arguing that the judge did not take mitigating factors into account at a resentencing hearing.
- In *250 Shoup Mill v. Tax Commissioner*, the court will decide if a non-profit real estate company that leases property to a Dayton charter school and is owned by a charter-school corporation is eligible for a property tax exemption.
- In *Jacobson v. Kaforey*, the court will determine if a woman, who as a child was assigned a conservator who then sent her to live with an uncle in Florida, can file a lawsuit claiming the conservator and a hospital violated the law.
- In *Aalim v. State*, A juvenile facing aggravated robbery charges in adult court will argue that the statute allowing his case to be moved from the juvenile system is unconstitutional because the juvenile court judge was not given an opportunity to determine if he would be responsive to rehabilitation in the juvenile system.
- In *State v. Jones*, The court will decide if a Cleveland man convicted of a 1993 more than 20 years later should be subject to sentencing laws at the time of the offense.

The latter two cases, along with the public records case, will be heard on April 20 at Meigs High School in Pomeroy as part of the court's off-site program.

National Report: Ohio's Affordable Housing Lags Behind Needs Of Low Income Renters

A new national analysis of U.S. Census data shows Ohio by and large has just 38 affordable and available housing units for every 100 extremely low income renter households.

But Ohio isn't alone, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, which analyzed the data. The Buckeye State joins 49 other states and Washington D.C. in not being able to adequately meet the housing needs of impoverished residents.

The report, called "The Gap: The Affordable Housing Gap Analysis 2016," examines PUMS data - the most detailed level of data from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. In doing so, the group determined that "clearly a new approach is needed to address the housing needs of households with the lowest incomes."

That's because the United States has 7.2 million too few affordable rental units available to those considered "extremely low income," which is defined as those with an income at or below 30% of the area median income.

Of those ELI renters, 75% were "severely cost-burdened, spending more than half of their income on rent and utilities," according to the study. In all states, at least 55% of ELI renters put more than half their incomes toward rent and utilities, according to the group.

NLIHC Vice President of Research Andrew Aurand said the study "reveals an alarming reality about housing for extremely low income households."

"What is frustrating is the lack of timely action to address the issue," Mr. Aurand said. "Millions of people in America are living in unaffordable rental homes. They are forced to cut their spending on food, transportation and health to pay rent."

In Ohio, there were 274,346 too few units for ELI households. In all, 71% of ELI households demonstrated a severe housing cost burden.

Of Ohio's three largest metropolitan areas, each had a deficit of housing units per 100 households at or below the ELI threshold. But only Columbus had a number of available units below the national level.

Of those metro areas:

- The Columbus area required 55,675 more affordable housing units to adequately serve extremely low income renters
- The Cincinnati area - including portions of Kentucky and Indiana - had 47,486 too few units for that population
- The Cleveland-Elyria area had 55,579 too few units

Of all states, North Dakota fared the best, but that state still had a shortage with 64 affordable and available units per 100 ELI households. Nevada, in contrast, fared the worst nationally with 17 units per 100 such households.

Sheila Crowley, who recently retired as the group's president and CEO, said more funding to the National Housing Trust Fund would help close the gap.

So would success of the group's ongoing campaign United for Homes, she said, which lobbies for reducing the portion of a mortgage eligible for tax breaks from \$1 million to \$500,000 and changing the deduction to a 15% non-refundable tax credit. She said those moves would save up to \$200 billion in the next decade that could be invested into the trust fund.

"The National Housing Trust Fund was explicitly created to address the most critical housing needs in our country, housing affordable to those with the lowest income," Ms. Crowley said. "We can end homelessness and housing poverty in America without adding a penny to the federal deficit through the United for Homes campaign. All we need is the will."

Education Notes: 44 Applicants Seeking Superintendent Job; AG Says College, University Foundations Can Be Audited

The State Board of Education this week will begin reviewing the qualifications of 44 applicants who are looking to be the next superintendent of public instruction.

Board President Tom Gunlock said the applications will be made public on Wednesday and board members will have until April 28 to pick five candidates that they would like to interview.

Ray & Associates, a contracted search firm, is reviewing the applications that were due Friday and will also select the five interviewees, he said.

The goal is to complete interviews in May and select a superintendent shortly after, the board president said.

"Hopefully somebody will come to the forefront and we can get this done. If not, we may have to call people back for additional interviews, but hopefully we can get this thing done sometime in May," Mr. Gunlock said in an interview.

The chosen candidate, who will be paid \$210,000-\$250,000 annually, will replace former superintendent Dick Ross, who retired in December. Lonny Rivera, who has been serving as interim superintendent, said last year he wasn't interested in applying for the permanent post.

Foundation Audits: State Auditor Dave Yost is clear to continue reviewing the financial records of college and university foundations, per an Attorney General's opinion.

AG Mike DeWine recently issued an opinion stating that the foundations, which raise private funds to support the public institutions, are considered public entities and therefore subject to audits.

"We conclude that a public college or university foundation established as a private nonprofit corporation under R.C. Chapter 1702, the primary purpose of which is to solicit and receive, on behalf of a state college or university, gifts, donations, and bequests made for the benefit or use of the state college or university, and which is responsible for keeping records of donations for the state college or university, is an entity established by the laws of this state for the exercise of a function of government, and is, therefore, a public office," according to the legal opinion.

Yost spokesman Benjamin Marrison said the office requested clarification on foundation audits following push back from the University of Toledo and Youngstown State University. The latter hired legal counsel to debate the auditor's characterization of its foundation as a public entity late last year, Mr. Marrison said.

The opinion ensures that the auditor can examine foundation funds as he sees fit.

"We are pleased, but not surprised, that the attorney general agrees that these funds - collected on behalf of universities to benefit universities - are public dollars and subject to the scrutiny of state auditors," Mr. Yost said.

The office has been contracting with audit firms to examine college and university foundations as part of regular audits for more than 20 years, Mr. Marrison said.

Agency Briefs: Elevated Lead Levels Found In Statehouse Drinking Fountain; ODNR Awards Marine Patrol Grants; OEPA; Civil Rights...

The Capitol Square Review & Advisory Board on Monday tested water in the Statehouse after previous testing found elevated lead levels in a single drinking fountain.

Columbus news station NBC4 collected water samples in the building and testing showed that a fountain on the first floor of the Senate building had a "slightly elevated lead level," according to CSRAB.

To verify the tests, CSRAB completed its own and is expecting results to be available by Friday. All 17 drinking fountains and four kitchenettes in the Statehouse and Senate Building were tested.

The drinking fountain that was identified as having elevated lead levels was taken out of service last Friday when the results of the NBC4 tests were provided to officials, CSRAB said.

Natural Resources: The agency's Division of Watercraft will provide 24 communities with more than \$576 million to support marine patrol units.

"The 2016 Marine Patrol Assistance Grants will help local law enforcement agencies provide emergency response to boating-related incidents, conduct routine waterway patrols and purchase safety equipment for use on marine patrol vessels," according to an ODNR release.

As the number of registered recreational watercraft has increased in recent years, boating-related fatalities have decreased, the agency noted.

In 2015, a record 474,601 watercraft were registered, representing a growth of almost 40,000 in the last three years. Boating related fatalities, meanwhile, have decreased 12% since 1996.

Environmental Protection Agency: A public hearing is set for April 18 to gather input on a wastewater treatment plant expansion in Grove City.

The Ohio EPA said the expansion that discharges to a tributary of Big Darby Creek "would allow Franklin County to retire older wastewater treatment plants and would not accommodate new development."

The agency will take comments on the plans at 6 p.m. at Pleasant View Middle School, 7255 Knopp Road, Grove City. Comments can also be submitted to epa.dswcomments@epa.ohio.gov or EPA-DSW, Attention Permits Processing unit, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43215-1049

Civil Rights Commission: The commission is requesting nominations for its 2016 class of the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame.

The 8th annual Hall of Fame induction ceremony will recognize Ohioans who have been leaders in human and civil rights issues in the state and have advanced quality and inclusion, according to a commission release.

Nominations are due by July 1 for the ceremony that will be held Oct. 6.

Politics Notebook: Strickland Proposes Five Debates, Portman Campaign Aims To Contact 50K Voters; Buckeye Institute Slams Capital Bill; Planned Parenthood And Ohio Right To Life To Hit Statehouse...

After refusing to debate primary opponent P.G. Sittenfeld, former Gov. Ted Strickland is now calling on Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) to accept at least five debates in his bid to oust the first-term incumbent.

In a letter to Sen. Portman, Mr. Strickland writes that he looks "forward to a spirited and vigorous campaign; one in which we outline our positions on key issues affecting the people of Ohio."

"Towards that end, I would like to propose a series of debates designed to highlight our priorities and the genuine policy differences that exist between us," the letter continues.

Mr. Strickland proposes the debates be held across the state, one in each region. He also called for the debates to be held in August, September and October.

"Collectively, we can demonstrate to the people of Ohio that we are committed to an open and fruitful discussion of the issues and in the process help inform the voters of the choice they face with this election," the letter reads.

Portman campaign spokeswoman Michawn Rich said in a statement the campaign looks forward to comparing and contrasting the two candidates' records.

"This comes as a welcome surprise given that after a year of refusing to debate, Ted Strickland and his 'invisible' campaign had a change of heart and are now committed to an 'open and fruitful discussion of the issues,'" Ms. Rich said. "As Ted Strickland and his campaign are well aware, we are already receiving debate requests and we look forward to finalizing details with his staff."

Sen. Portman's campaign meanwhile announced a goal of contacting 50,000 voters on April 23 through an effort it has dubbed "Super Saturday."

During a previous "Super Saturday" in October, more than 600 volunteers contacted upwards of 41,000 voters in one day, according to the campaign.

"We are building the most advanced grassroots organization in Ohio history and we are excited about working with thousands of volunteers that know Ohio can't afford to go back to Ted Strickland's Ohio," Ms. Rich said.

"While Ted Strickland runs his 'invisible' campaign, we are proud to work with our impressive team of volunteers and interns who have helped us contact more than 1.5 million voters since last May," he continued. "Ohio voters will have a clear choice in November between moving forward with Rob's pro-growth policies for better wages and more jobs, or returning to Ted Strickland's failed policies of higher taxes, more regulations, and bigger government."

Capital Bill: Ahead of the release of the capital bill (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 8, 2016), the Buckeye Institute is slamming the \$150 million likely to be set aside for local projects.

"At a time where critical infrastructure needs are emerging across the state, spending state dollars on items that should be paid for locally is not an optimal use of scarce resources," Greg Lawson, the organization's Statehouse liaison and policy analyst, said in a statement. "Ohio policymakers should focus on what is really needed to help the state prosper while letting local taxpayers make local decisions."

In a report issued, the organization lists what it believes to be the "five most ridiculous capital budget requests of 2016." They include:

- \$10.6 million for a "Triumph of Flight" statute at I-70 and I-75 in Dayton
- \$2 million to renovate an exhibit at the Cleveland Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

- \$1.5 million to refurbish parts of Mapfre Stadium in Columbus
- \$150,000 for the Madcap Productions theater and exhibit hall
- \$50,000-\$100,000 for the Bowling Green Curling Club ice rink

Abortion: Both sides of the abortion debate will converge on the Statehouse this week.

Ohio Right to Life will hold a Legislative Day on Tuesday at the Statehouse in which anti-abortion advocates will lobby for the "Down Syndrome Non-Discrimination Act."

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Ohio on Wednesday will hold Freedom of Choice Ohio's Annual Advocacy Day, beginning at Trinity Episcopal Church and moving to the Statehouse.

"Ohio, like many states, has seen an increase in barriers to women's access to vital and high quality health care services," the group stated. "This coordinated effort is part of a larger strategy that is being used nationwide to eventually remove access to safe and legal abortion."

Black Lung Measure: Rep. Jack Cera (D-Bellaire) on Monday touted the introduction of a bill (HB 510) designed to help protect coal miners who are diagnosed with black lung.

"Dealing with black lung disease is a tough reality for many of Ohio's coal miners who work some of our hardest and most dangerous jobs," he said in a statement. "Providing a fair opportunity for benefits as they deal with this debilitating disease is important for the miners and their families. I hope that my colleagues in the legislature will agree."

The legislation would create a workers' compensation process similar to that in West Virginia for coal miners with black lung.

"A miner who lives in Ohio but worked in West Virginia can currently receive at least partial benefits through West Virginia, but a miner who lives and works in Ohio has a more difficult time being approved for benefits," Rep. Cera said. "This bill will help provide a miner who has contracted black lung to have a better chance of receiving at least some benefit to help them through this difficult time."

Kasich Schedule: Gov. John Kasich has four campaign events scheduled this week in New York ahead of the state's presidential primary next week.

Gov. Kasich held two town hall events on Monday, including one hosted by Fox News' Sean Hannity, along with a press availability.

On Tuesday, the governor is set to deliver a speech in New York City on the "Two Paths" facing the American electorate in 2016.

GOP Dinner: The Ohio Republican Party's 2016 state dinner will feature radio talk show host Hugh Hewitt as the keynote speaker.

The June 4 event will also feature Sen. Portman.

Equal Pay: Democrats on Tuesday will hold a press conference in Akron to coincide with Equal Pay Day.

The event, which will feature Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper and Summit County Clerk of Courts Sandra Kurt, will highlight the gender pay disparity, which Democrats says amounts to about \$10,597 between men and women who work full time in the state.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Tuesday, April 12

State Board of Education, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 8 a.m.

Thursday, April 14

Criminal Justice Recodification Committee, House Finance Hearing Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 1 p.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Tuesday, April 12

Legislative leaders news conference on capital bill, Harding Senate Press Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

House Democrats news conference on bill to restrict local hiring options, PLAs (SB152), George Washington Williams Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 10:30 a.m.

State leaders news conference on efforts to boost fight against prescription drug abuse, CompDrug Inc., 1420 Fields Ave., Columbus, 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, April 13

Immunization Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse

Ohio Library Council Legislative Day, Statehouse, Columbus, (The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library's Mobile Technology Lab will be parked and available for tours on the Third Street side of the Senate Bldg. from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

Freedom of Choice Ohio's Annual Advocacy Day, Trinity Episcopal Church, 125 E. Broad St. & Statehouse, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

Ohio Library Council news conference on ROI report, Ladies Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 11 a.m.

Wednesday, May 11

Sen. Capri Cafaro (D-Hubbard) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Host - \$1000; Sponsor - \$750; Friend - \$500 to Friends of Senator Cafaro)

Saturday, June 4

Ohio Republican Party 2016 State Dinner, Hyatt Regency Ballroom, 350 N. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (See <https://www.ohiogop.org/statedinner/> for more information)
Tuesday, June 7

Ohio Senate Democratic Caucus fundraiser, Huntington Park, 330 Huntington Park Ln., Columbus, 6 p.m., (Private Reception
at 6 PM - Game starts at 7:05 PM; Contribution Levels: Host - \$1,500; Sponsor - \$1,000; Friend - \$750 to Ohio Senate Democrats)

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House Activity for Monday, April 11, 2016

CALENDAR FOR COMING SESSION

SB 133 ■ **AWARENESS MONTH** (Beagle, B.) To designate June as "Scleroderma Awareness Month."

HB 57 ■ **MURDER SENTENCING** (Maag, R.) To change the sentence for aggravated murder.

HB 165 ■ **HUNTING** (Green, D.) To allow an individual on active military duty, while on leave or furlough, to hunt deer or wild turkey without procuring a deer or wild turkey permit.

HB 335 ■ **COURT JURISDICTION** (Craig, H., Grossman, C.) To specify the jurisdiction of municipal and county courts over municipal traffic ordinances and to establish requirements governing fines, fees, or other charges for traffic violations and infractions imposed by a municipal corporation that does not have the authority to establish a mayor's court.

SCR 2 ■ **DIABETES RESEARCH** (Balderson, T., Gentile, L.) To urge the United States Congress to increase federal funding for research and development involving advanced medical technology used in the treatment of type 1 diabetes.

SENATE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS

State Government: Remove Representative LaTourette; appoint Representative Young

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Daily Activity Planner for Tuesday, April 12

Legislative Committees

House State Government (Committee Record) (Chr. Maag, R., 644-6023), Rm. 116, 8:30 a.m.

- SB 152** **CONTRACTOR LABOR** (Uecker, J.) To prohibit a public authority from requiring a contractor to employ a certain percentage of individuals from the geographic area of the public authority for the construction or professional design of a public improvement. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- SB 239** **DAY DESIGNATION** (Hughes, J.) To designate August 7 as Ohio Purple Heart Day. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- HB 341** **TRANSPORTATION LAWS** (Young, R., Sweeney, M.) To require the Public Utilities Commission to raise the existing statutorily designated towing and storage fees annually by the percentage increase in the consumer price index, to establish a \$35 fee for the retrieval of nonmedical personal items from a motor vehicle, to modify the civil penalties applicable to violations of the towing law, to modify the calculation of the value of an abandoned vehicle to which a towing service or storage facility seeks to take title, and to make other changes to the towing law. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)
- HB 449** **DAY DESIGNATION** (Romanchuk, M., Amstutz, R.) To designate February 3 as "Charles Follis Day." (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HCR 32** **EDUCATION ACT** (McColley, R.) To urge the United States Congress to pass the ADA Education and Reform Act of 2015. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- House Local Government (Committee Record) (Chr. Anielski, M., 644-6041), Rm. 018, 9 a.m.
- HB 302** **ANNEXATION** (Henne, M., Butler, J.) To provide that, beginning five years after a type-II annexation is approved, the annexed territory is subject to a fire, police, or EMS tax levy only if the levy is imposed by the subdivision that provides the fire, police, or EMS service to the territory. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)
- HB 413** **EXECUTIVE SESSION** (Brinkman, T.) To add to the purposes for which a board of township trustees may go into executive session, to permit a township to charge for recycling services, to reduce the population threshold for a township to adopt a limited home rule form of government, to authorize a township to purchase, lease, or provide underwater rescue and recovery equipment for fire and rescue purposes, to authorize boards of township trustees to pay for group life insurance for any employee, to make other

changes to the township laws, to allow taxing units to use the proceeds of a fire, police, or emergency services tax levy to pay costs related to the service for which the tax is levied, and to expand the public infrastructure improvements townships, municipal corporations, and counties may pay for using money from their public improvement tax increment equivalent funds. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB 455

BOARDING SCHOOL ZONE (Patterson, J., Roegner, K.) To authorize a municipal corporation or township to establish a boarding school zone and a special speed limit within that zone. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 462

POLICE DISTRICT (Hagan, C., Sprague, R.) To establish a joint police district, to modify the membership of a joint police district governing body, to expand the offense of solicitation to also apply to a person who agrees with another to engage with the other person in sexual activity for hire, to provide that the "prescription exemption" from the drug possession offenses does not apply to a person who uses more of the drug than the maximum prescribed amount per day or the maximum amount to be used within the prescription timeline or who administers or takes the drug in a manner not prescribed by the prescribing health professional, and to provide immunity from civil liability to a peace officer who administers naloxone to a person who is apparently experiencing an opioid-related overdose. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Senate Financial Institutions (Committee Record) (**Chr. Hughes, J., 466-5981**), Finance Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

HB 303

DEED PROGRAM (Dever, J., McColley, R.) To create the D.O.L.L.A.R. Deed Program. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 229

TRUST LAW (Hambley, S., Bishoff, H.) To create the Ohio Family Trust Company Act. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 175

TRUST COMPANY LAW (Eklund, J.) To create the Ohio Family Trust Company Act. (4th Hearing-All testimony)

SB 226

DEBT ADJUSTING (Seitz, B.) Regarding debt adjusting. (4th Hearing-All testimony)

House Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (**Chr. Amstutz, R., 466-1474**), Rm. 119, 10 a.m.

Senate State & Local Government (Committee Record) (**Chr. Uecker, J., 466-8082**), Finance Hearing Rm., 10 a.m.

SB 257

REAL PROPERTY (Seitz, B., Skindell, M.) To create a presumption of validity of recorded real property instruments, reduce the time period for curing certain defects related to those instruments, and provide constructive notice for those instruments. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 167

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION (Sweeney, M.) Regarding the term of a General Assembly member as a member of the Legislative Service Commission. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

- SB 275** **PHOTO MONITORING** (Patton, T.) To prohibit a local authority from deriving more than 30 per cent of the total annual revenue of the local authority from the issuance of tickets for traffic law violations based on evidence recorded by traffic law photo-monitoring devices. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HCR 26** **MILITARY BRATPIN** (Sears, B., Dovilla, M.) To express support for the Military BratPin. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 87** **DAY DESIGNATION** (Slesnick, S.) To designate October 7 as Moses Fleetwood Walker Day. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 31** **STATE ROCK SONG** (Grossman, C., Stinziano, M.) To designate "Hang on Sloopy," which includes the following lyrics, as the official state rock song: Hang on Sloopy, Sloopy hang on; Sloopy lives in a very bad part of town; All the girls I know they try to put my Sloopy down; Sloopy, I don't care what your daddy do; Don't you know little girl, I'm in love with you; Sloopy, let your hair down, let it down on me; Come on Sloopy let your hair down, Girl it down on me. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Senate Insurance (Committee Record) (**Chr. Hottinger, J., 466-5838**), **South Hearing Rm., 10:30 a.m.**

- SB 27** **FIREFIGHTER CANCER** (Patton, T.) To provide that a firefighter who is disabled as a result of specified types of cancer is presumed for purposes of the laws governing workers' compensation and the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund to have incurred the cancer while performing official duties as a firefighter. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- HB 95** **DENTAL SERVICES** (DeVitis, T.) To prohibit a health insurer from establishing a fee schedule for dental providers that are not covered by any contract or participating provider agreement between the health insurer and the dental provider. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)
- HB 207** **WORKERS COMPENSATION** (Henne, M., McColley, R.) To allow a state fund employer to have a workers' compensation claim that is likely to be subrogated by a third party paid from the surplus fund account in the state insurance fund rather than charged to the employer's experience (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

House Session (**Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357**), **House Chamber, 11 a.m.**

Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (**Chr. Faber, K., 466-7584**), **Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.**

Senate Agriculture (Committee Record) (**Chr. Hite, C., 466-8150**), **North Hearing Rm., 11:15 a.m.**

- HB 178** **WINE SALES** (Manning, N.) To establish the F-10 liquor permit to authorize certain A-2 permit holders to sell Ohio wines at farmers markets. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible amendments)
- HB 342** **WINERY PERMITS** (Young, R.) To create the Ohio Farm Winery Permit. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

- HB 37** **ALCOHOL POSSESSION** (Duffey, M., Stinziano, M.) To allow a person to possess beer or intoxicating liquor on the premises of a market if the beer or intoxicating liquor has been purchased from a D liquor permit holder that is located in the market. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)
- HB 60** **COMPANION ANIMAL ABUSE** (Hall, D., Patmon, B.) To revise provisions and penalties regarding treatment of companion animals, to revise the definition of "companion animal" in the Offenses Relating to Domestic Animals Law, and to provide a state collaborative effort to assist veterinarians in identifying clients who may use their animals to secure opioids for abuse. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Finance (Committee Record) (**Chr. Smith, R., 466-1366**), **Rm. 313, 1 p.m.**

- SB 264** **TAX HOLIDAY** (Bacon, K.) To provide for a three-day sales tax "holiday" in August 2016 during which sales of back-to-school clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use taxes. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 130** **DATA OHIO BOARD** (Hagan, C., Duffey, M.) To create the DataOhio Board, to specify requirements for posting public records online, to require the Auditor of State to adopt rules regarding a uniform accounting system for public offices, to establish an online catalog of public data at data.Ohio.gov, to establish the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program, and to make an appropriation. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendments)
- HB 391** **FINANCIAL LITERACY** (Terhar, L.) To require the Chancellor of Higher Education to create the SmartOhio Financial Literacy Pilot Program at the University of Cincinnati to operate for the 2016-2017 school year and to make an appropriation. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- HB 483** **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES** (Amstutz, R.) To modify programs administered by the Department of Developmental Disabilities and to make an appropriation. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Pending referral)

House Government Accountability & Oversight (Committee Record) (**Chr. Brown, T., 466-8104**), **Rm. 114, 1:30 p.m.**

- HB 227** **COSMETOLOGY LAW** (Roegner, K., Reece, A.) To make changes to the Cosmetology Licensing Law. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments, substitute & vote)
- HB 183** **STUDENT TRUSTEES** (Antani, N., Stinziano, M.) To grant student members of the boards of trustees of state universities and the Northeast Ohio Medical University voting power and the authority to attend executive sessions. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)
- HB 444** **ALCOHOL SAMPLES** (Blessing, L.) To allow certain D liquor permit holders to provide free tasting samples of beer, wine, and spirituous liquor to a person who is 21 years old or older and a paying customer of the permit holder. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Senate Session (**Chr. Faber, K., 466-4900**), **Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.**

House Commerce & Labor (Committee Record) (Chr. Young, R., 644-6074), Rm. 122, 2 p.m. or after session

HB 172 CRIMINAL RECORDS (Barnes, J.) To enact the Fair and Accurate Reporting of Criminal Records Law, to require certain business entities that publish criminal record information to ensure that the information is complete and accurate, to provide a procedure by which a subject of published criminal record information may have incomplete or inaccurate information corrected or removed from the publication, and to provide remedies for the failure of a business entity to remove or correct incomplete or inaccurate information. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)

Senate Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 2:30 p.m. or after session

- **1st Hearing-Sponsor-Pending introduction & referral of capital appropriations bill.**

House Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. McClain, J., 644-6265), Rm. 121, 3 p.m.

HB 404 SALES TAX REFUNDS (Schaffer, T.) To allow vendors to deduct or apply for a refund of sales tax remitted for bad debts on private label credit cards used to make purchases from the vendor. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 172 BULLION TAXES (Jordan, K.) To exempt from sales and use taxes the sale or use of investment metal bullion and coins. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 466 TAX EXEMPTION (Smith, R.) To specifically exempt digital advertising services from sales and use tax. (1st Hearing-Sponsor & proponent)

HB 150 HOTEL INTERMEDIARIES (Grossman, C., Scherer, G.) To require hotel intermediaries to collect and remit applicable sales and use tax on the full amount paid for hotel lodging, to require hotel intermediaries to supply customers with itemized invoices, to specify that a hotel intermediary is presumed to have "substantial nexus" with Ohio if the intermediary arranges lodging at Ohio hotels, and to specify that hotels are not liable for the failure of a hotel intermediary to properly collect or remit applicable taxes. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

House Judiciary (Committee Record) (Chr. Butler, J., 644-6008), Rm. 116, 3:30 p.m.

HB 432 ESTATE LAW (Rezabek, J.) To revise the law governing decedent's estates by making changes in the Ohio Trust Code, the Probate Law, the Uniform Principal and Income Act, the Transfers to Minors Act, and the Uniform Simultaneous Death Act. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 339 FOREIGN LAW (Young, R.) To prohibit courts, administrative agencies, and arbitrators from applying foreign law to the detriment of constitutional rights under the United States and Ohio constitutions. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendments)

HB 268 HUMAN TRAFFICKING (Hall, D., Dever, J.) To expand the list of human trafficking-related convictions and delinquency adjudications that may be expunged, to increase the penalties for compelling prostitution and promoting

prostitution, and to authorize intervention in lieu of conviction for persons charged with committing an offense while a victim of compelling prostitution. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible substitute)

HB 362

STRANGULATION (Stinziano, M., Kunze, S.) To prohibit a person from knowingly impeding the normal breathing or circulation of another by strangulation. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)

HB 38

PRISON TERMS (Patmon, B.) To create specifications that impose an additional prison term upon an offender who commits a felony offense against a disabled person or an elderly person and increase the period of commitment to the Department of Youth Services for committing an act that would be a felony offense against a disabled person or an elderly person if committed by an adult, for felony offenses that do not delineate enhanced penalties when a disabled person or an elderly person is the victim of the violation. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

HB 451

PROTECTION ORDERS (Boose, T.) To provide that an individual's statutory priority to decide whether or not to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment for the individual's relative is forfeited if the individual is the subject of a temporary protection order or civil protection order and the relative is the alleged victim or if the individual and the relative are married and the parties to a divorce, dissolution, legal separation, or annulment proceeding. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Public Safety (Committee Record) (Chr. Johnson, T., 466-2124), Rm. 017, 3:30 p.m.

SB 84

FLAG DISPLAY (Coley, B.) To prohibit manufactured homes park operators, condominium associations, neighborhood associations, and landlords from restricting the display of Ohio flags and blue star banners, gold star banners, and other service flags, and to prohibit manufactured homes park operators and landlords from restricting the display of the United States flag. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 464

NATIONAL GUARD SCHOLARSHIPS (Terhar, L., Brinkman, T.) To specify that a National Guard scholarship recipient who fails to complete the recipient's term of enlistment in the National Guard due to enlistment, warrant, commission, or appointment in the United States armed forces is not liable for repayment of the scholarship. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 388

OVI OFFENSES (Scherer, G.) To authorize a court to grant unlimited driving privileges with an ignition interlock device to first-time OVI offenders, to expand the penalties related to ignition interlock device violations, to modify the law governing the installation and monitoring of ignition interlock devices, to extend the look back period for OVI and OVI-related offenses from six to ten years, and to modify the penalties for OVI offenses. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute & vote)

- SB 123** **TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS** (Hughes, J.) To allow emergency personnel in public safety vehicles to report traffic law violations under certain circumstances. (3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)
- SCR 9** **IRAN AGREEMENT** (Uecker, J.) To urge the Congress of the United States to disapprove the Iranian nuclear agreement known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- Sunset Review Committee** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Brown, T., 466-8104**), South Hearing Rm., 3:30 p.m.
- **Reviews of Education Management Information System Advisory Board, English Language Arts Academic Standards Review Committee, Mathematics Academic Standards Review Committee, Science Academic Standards Review Committee, Social Studies Academic Standards Review Committee, Straight A Program Advisory Committee, Straight A Program Governing Board, Advisory Board to Assist and Advise in the Operation of the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence, Board of Voting Machines Examiners, Workers' Compensation Board of Directors Nominating Committee, Technical Advisory Committee to Assist Director of the Ohio Coal Development Office, Supervisory Investigative Panel of the State Dental Board, Barber Board**
- House Community & Family Advancement** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Derickson, T., 644-5094**), Rm. 114, 4 p.m.
- HB 298** **DRUG TESTING** (Schaffer, T., Maag, R.) To require applicants for unemployment benefits to submit to a drug test under certain circumstances, to require the director of Job & Family Services to operate an Ohio Works First drug testing pilot program and to make an appropriation. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)
- HB 286** **MARRIAGE** (Vitale, N.) To provide that an ordained or licensed minister or religious society is not required to solemnize a marriage and a religious society is not required to allow any building or property of the religious society to be used to host a marriage ceremony if the marriage does not conform to the ordained or licensed minister's or religious society's sincerely held religious beliefs, to provide that an ordained or licensed minister or religious society is not subject to civil or criminal liability for such a denial, and to provide that the state and political subdivisions may not penalize or withhold benefits to an ordained or licensed minister or religious society for such a denial. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)
- Senate Education** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Lehner, P., 466-4538**), Finance Hearing Rm., 4 p.m.
- HB 299** **AUTISM SCHOLARSHIPS** (Blessing, L., Rezabek, J.) To permit the temporary, legal, or permanent custodian of a qualified child to apply for an Autism Scholarship. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

- SB 241** **EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS** (LaRose, F.) With regard to the employment of specified education professionals by city, exempted village, and local school districts. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- SB 252** **CARDIAC ARREST** (Hite, C., Patton, T.) With regard to sudden cardiac arrest in youth athletic activities. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendments)
- Senate Energy & Natural Resources** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Balderson, T., 466-8076**), North Hearing Rm., 4 p.m. or after session
- **Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of Frederick Cash, Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission; James Krimmel and John Petkovsek, Environmental Education Council; Kerry Krugh and David Kimberly, Radiation Advisory Council and Craig Porter, Reclamation Commission**
- SB 269** **WATER SYSTEMS** (Schiavoni, J.) To require a public water system to provide notice of lead contamination not later than thirty days after becoming aware that lead contamination may effect the system's drinking water, to require the Director of Environmental Protection to provide the notice if the public water system fails to provide it, to require employees of the Environmental Protection Agency to provide continuing assistance to a public water system that fails to provide the required notice of lead contamination, and to require the Director to adopt rules that increase the monitoring frequency for lead and copper under specified circumstances. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 118** **HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE SYSTEMS** (Eklund, J.) To authorize a board of county commissioners or municipal legislative authority to elect to withdraw the county or municipal corporation from the application of any rule adopted after January 1, 2014, by the Department of Health governing the design of household sewage treatment systems. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- SB 185** **IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS** (Seitz, B.) To revise the law governing special improvement districts created for the purpose of developing and implementing plans for special energy improvement projects. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Agency Calendar

State Board of Education, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 8 a.m.

Air Quality Development Authority, 50 W. Broad St., Suite 1718, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

Home Weatherization Assistance Program Policy Advisory Council, 77 South High Street, Room 1960, Columbus, 2 p.m.

Event Planner

Housing Ohio 2016 Conference, Sheraton Downtown Columbus, 75 E. State St., Columbus

Ohio Bankers League lobby day

Ohio Right to Life legislative day

Legislative leaders news conference on capital bill, Harding Senate Press Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

House Democrats news conference on bill to restrict local hiring options, PLAs (SB152), George Washington Williams Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 10:30 a.m.

State leaders news conference on efforts to boost fight against prescription drug abuse, CompDrug Inc., 1420 Fields Ave., Columbus, 11:30 a.m.

Sen. Kris Jordan (R-Ostrander) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Parlors A&B, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500; Individual attendee: \$350 to Friends of Kris Jordan)

Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP Legislative Reception, 52 East Gay St., Columbus, 5 p.m.

Bowling Green State University Statehouse Falcons reception, Capital Club, 41 S. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (RSVP to batesdc@bgsu.edu)

Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Tally Ho Room, 136 East Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Host \$2,500; Chair \$1,000; Sponsor \$500; Individual \$350 to Hackett for Ohio)

Sen. Larry Obhof (R-Medina) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Gold Room, 136 East Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Event Host \$2,500; Event Sponsor \$1,000; Individual \$500 to Citizens for Obhof)

Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland) fundraiser, Chintz Room, 121 S. High Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Host - \$1000; Sponsor - \$750; Friend - \$500 to Friends of Sandra Williams)

Rep. Steve Hambley (R-Brunswick) and Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R-Ontario) fundraiser, Little Palace, 240 S. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Hambley for House Committee and/or Romanchuk for State Rep)

Rep. Ron Young (R-Leroy Township) fundraiser, Capital Club, Scarlet & Gray Room, 41 S. High Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Ron Young)

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Columbus Ohio 43215

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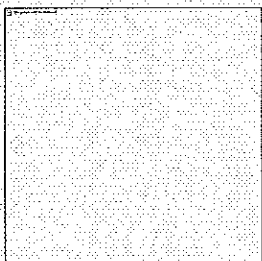
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From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 8:05 AM

To: Derksen, Nick

Subject: Just Released: Ohio Leapfrogged 30 Other States in New Rich States, Poor States Ranking



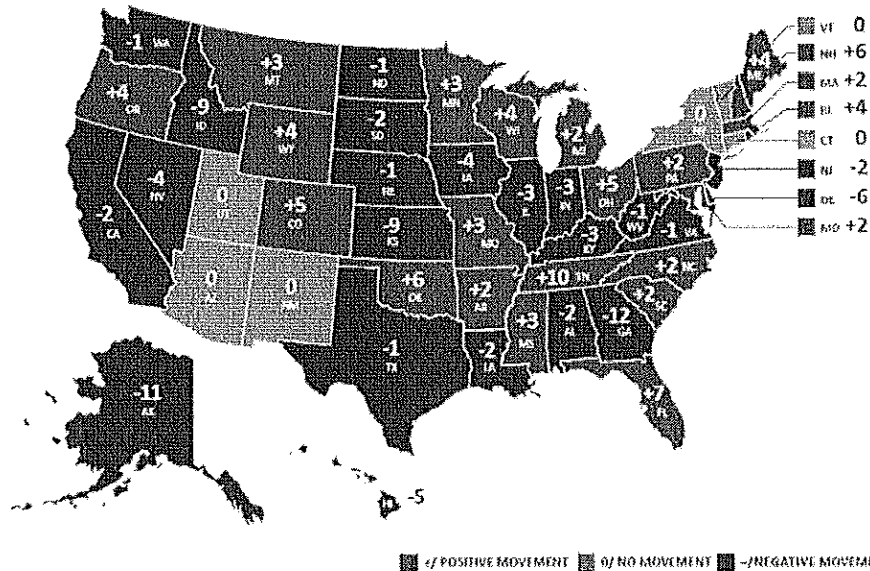
Buckeye Institute News Alert

Contact: Greg R. Lawson
614-224-4422
Greg@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 12, 2016

Earlier this morning economists Dr. Arthur B. Laffer, Jonathan Williams, and Stephen Moore released their 9th edition of Rich States, Poor States for the American Legislative Exchange Council.

RICH STATES, POOR STATES ECONOMIC OUTLOOK RANKING CHANGES FROM 2015 TO 2016

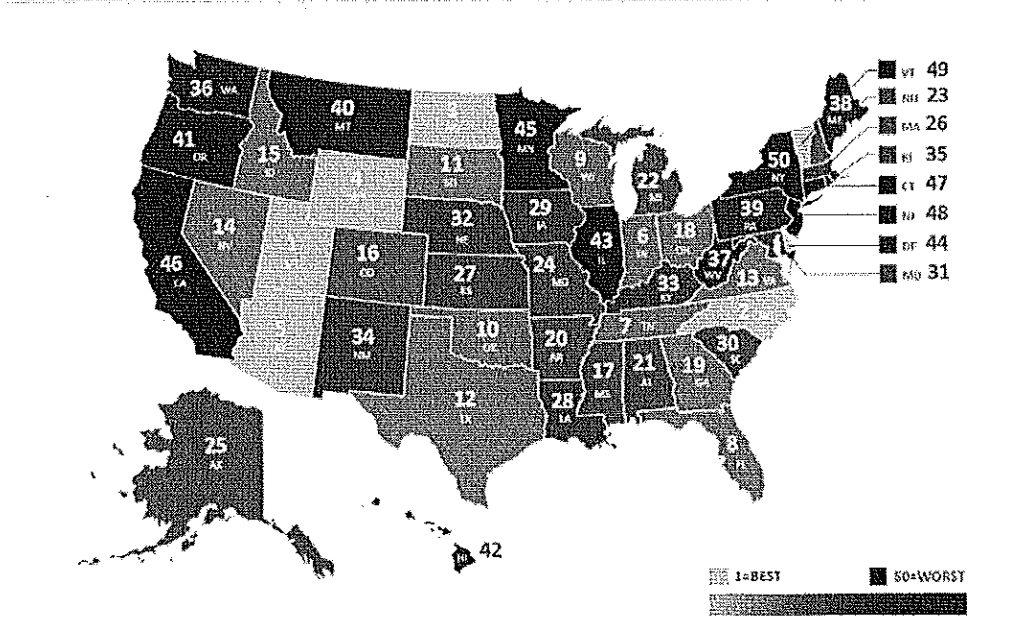


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Governor Kasich and the General Assembly have cut income tax rates, eliminated the death tax, and constrained some spending. Only Kansas has cut more in taxes than Ohio over the past nine years. These policies have helped Ohio move up from the 49th worst economic performance out of the 50 states to the 18th best in the new rankings. Ohio's improvement was the largest increase in the nation.

2016 RICH STATES, POOR STATES ECONOMIC OUTLOOK RANKINGS



The rankings prove that cutting and eliminating taxes, reducing spending, and enacting labor reforms are the keys to economic prosperity. Ohio has taken steps on the first two counts, which means that the good news is that Ohio no longer has a bottom five ranking in this index, a place it had languished far too long. The bad news is that Ohio can't afford complacency and desperately needs to join our neighboring states in reforming labor laws. Wisconsin, which reformed its collective bargaining laws for public employees and adopted Right to Work, moved into the top ten on the Rich States, Poor States index. Ohio needs real labor reform in order to continue its ascent and reach its economic potential.

Thank you for supporting The Buckeye Institute's efforts to promote sound public policy in Ohio and all of the states.

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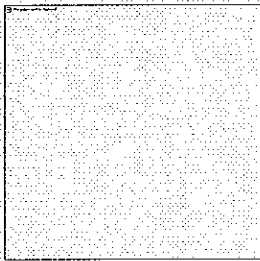
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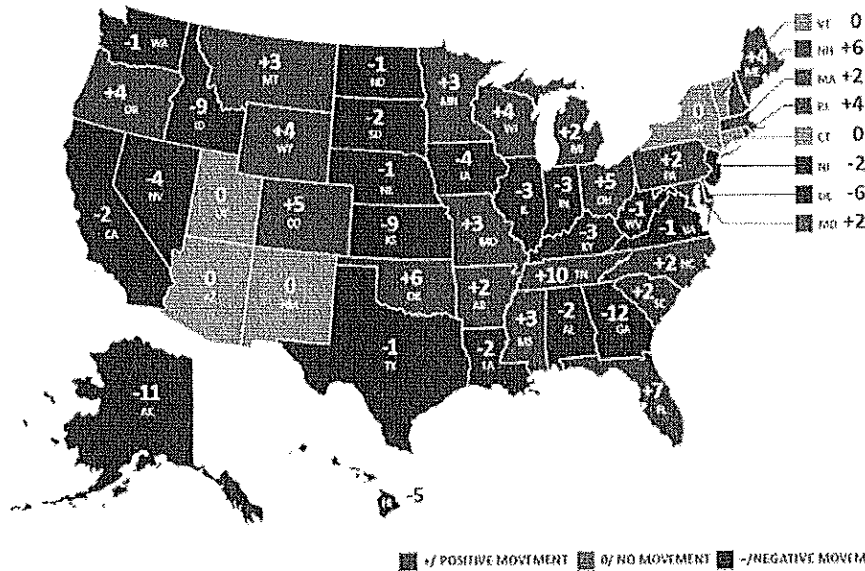
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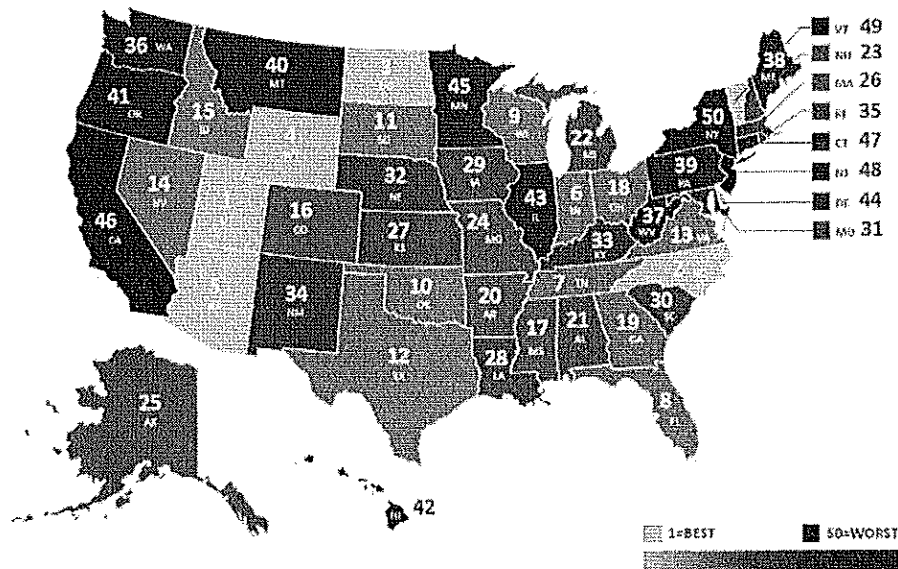


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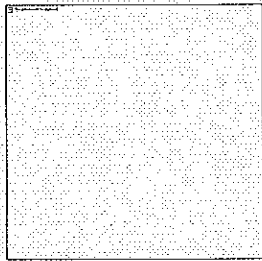
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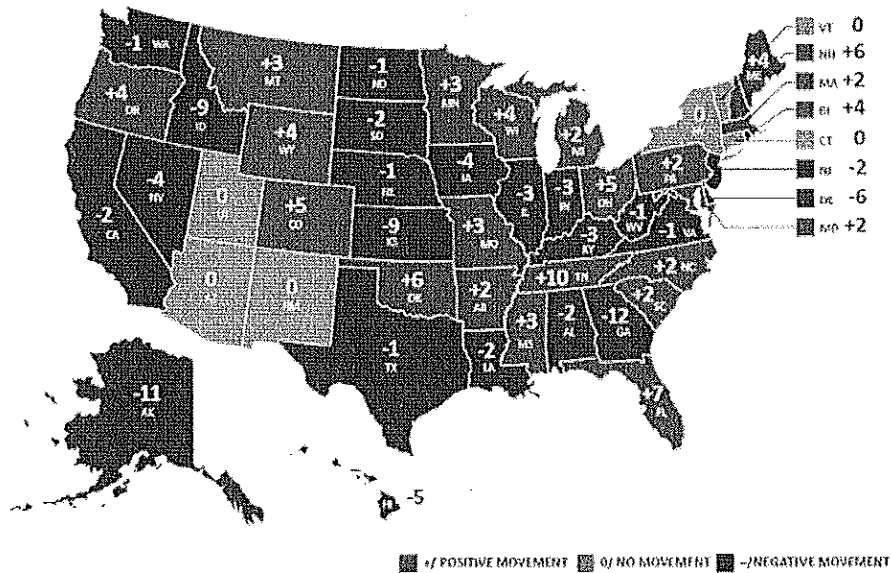
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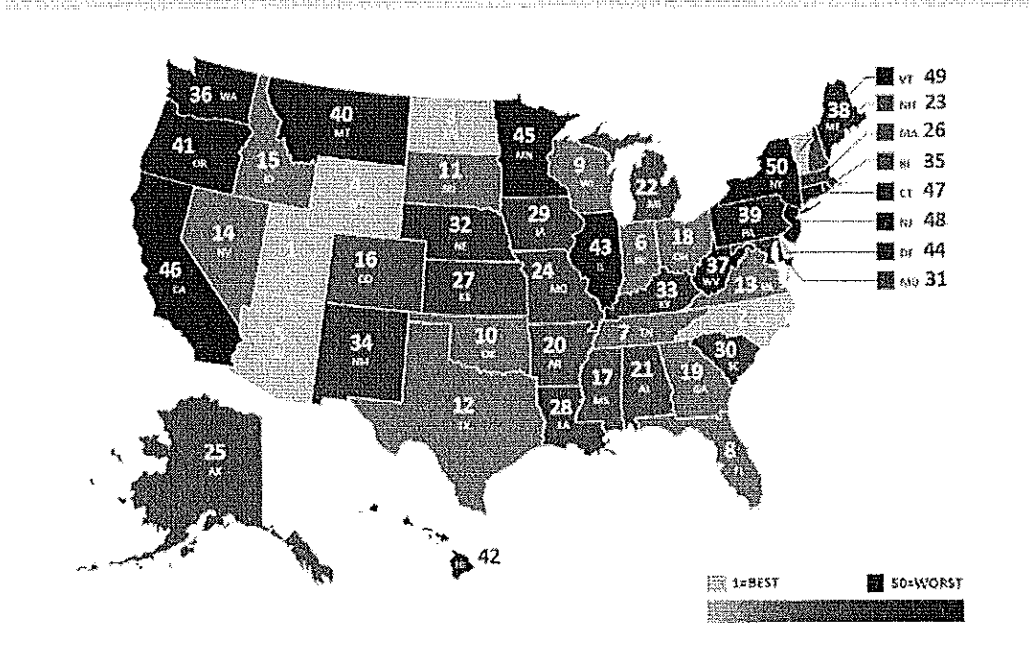


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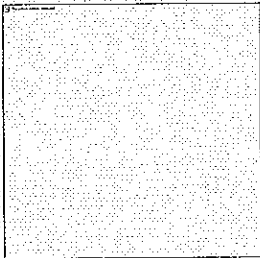
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2016 1:26 PM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: Ohio Leads Nation Two Years in a Row in Transparency



Buckeye Institute News Alert

Contact: Greg R. Lawson
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 13, 2016

Ohio Leads Nation Two Years in a Row in Transparency Treasurer Mandel Receives Highest Score Thanks to Ohio Checkbook

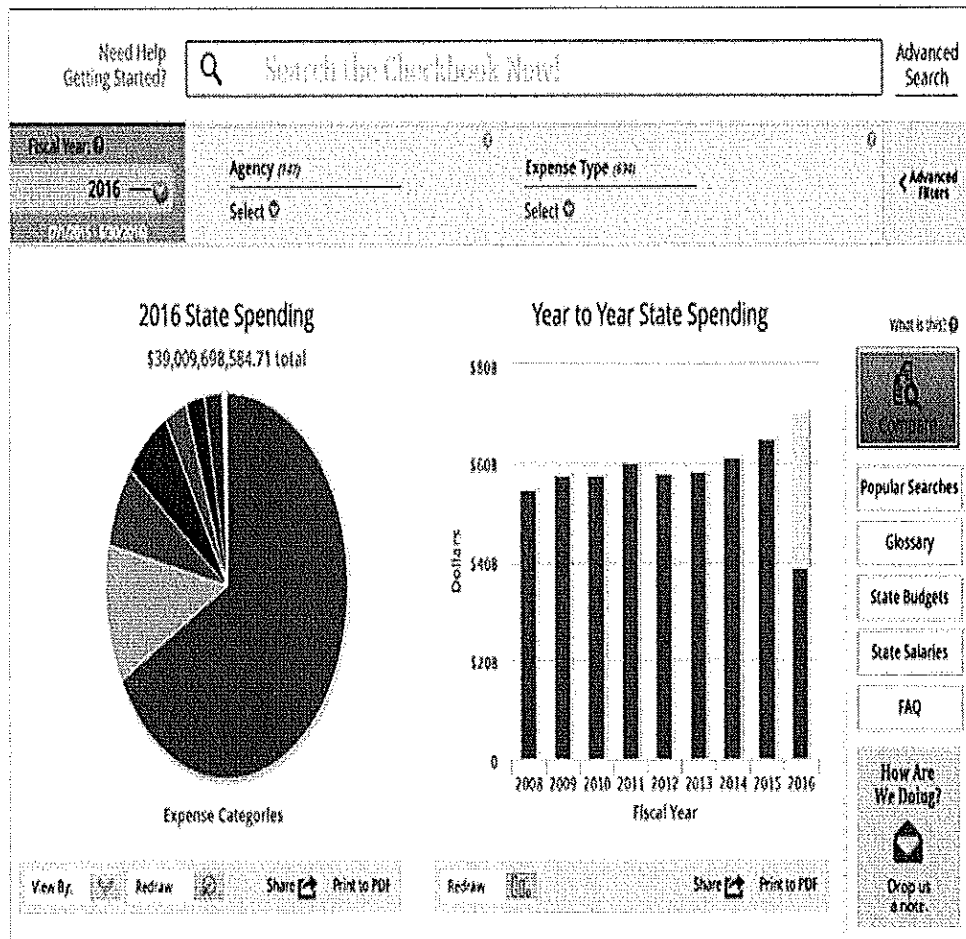
COLUMBUS, OHIO--On Wednesday, Ohio repeated as national champions in government transparency.

The U.S. Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) gave Ohio's Treasurer Josh Mandel the top spot in its ranking of state government transparency for the second straight year. Ohio received a perfect score thanks to the cutting edge Ohio Checkbook. The Treasurer deserves another round of applause for continuing to raise the bar on government transparency and serving as an example for the other 49 states.

The Buckeye Institute is proud to have played a role helping Treasurer Mandel pursue this important initiative. Treasurer Mandel said in his press conference today, *"The Buckeye Institute has been a terrific partner on this transparency initiative. They were pioneers in this space well before I was doing it, and continue to be today."*

Of course, it was not clear when Buckeye started our public salary databases and transparency project six years ago whether there would be appetite among Ohioans, let alone among state officials. After nearly 13.5 million searches of The Buckeye Institute's database, we are pleased that Treasurer Mandel has not only taken up and championed this cause, but has gone even further in leading the nation by setting the gold standard for other states to emulate.

OHIOCHECKBOOK.com



What once was a small dream of The Buckeye Institute to empower Ohio taxpayers is now a reality. Mandel's Ohio Checkbook not only looks at all state expenditures, but is also adding local governments' checkbooks to its online database in an unprecedented single, one-stop shop of such public data.

Treasurer Mandel's goal is to get ALL Ohio local governments' spending posted online and Buckeye will continue to work with his office to achieve full participation.

Given the fear mongering raised by too many local government officials over what they claim are draconian cuts by the state, local government transparency cannot come soon enough. As Buckeye's Statehouse Liaison and Policy Analyst, Greg R. Lawson, wrote this past weekend in the Cleveland Plain Dealer, "...instead of falling revenues, most local communities have seen overall local revenues rise."

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis once noted that, "sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants." The Buckeye Institute stands proudly with Treasurer Mandel and all advocates of government transparency and accountability to shine the disinfecting sunlight into every corner of Ohio government spending.

#

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Generation Opportunity
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 8:02 AM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: Message to attendees of Untangling Government Permission Slips

Eventbrite

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We are thrilled you have registered for our conversation on occupational licensing in Ohio TODAY at 11:30 a.m. We'll be meeting at the Athletic Club of Columbus on 136 E. Broad Street. Come hungry – lunch will be provided!

Joining the panel today will be:

- Ohio State Senator Kris Jordan
- Jennifer McClellan, Massage Therapist
- Rea Hederman – Buckeye Institute
- Meagan Forbes – Institute for Justice

If you have any questions about today's event, contact Alex Goodman, Director of External Affairs at agoodman@genopp.org.

Untangling Government Permission Slips

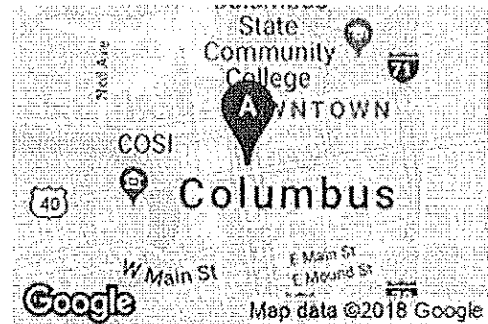


Tuesday, April 19, 2016
from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM
(EDT)



Athletic Club of Columbus
136 E. Broad St
Columbus, Ohio 43215

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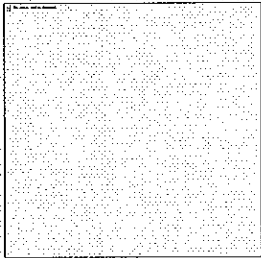
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From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2016 5:06 AM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: March Madness in the Ohio Jobs Market



Buckeye Institute News Alert

Contact: Joe Nichols
614-224-4422
Joe@BuckeyeInstitute.org

April 20, 2016

March Madness in the Ohio Jobs Market

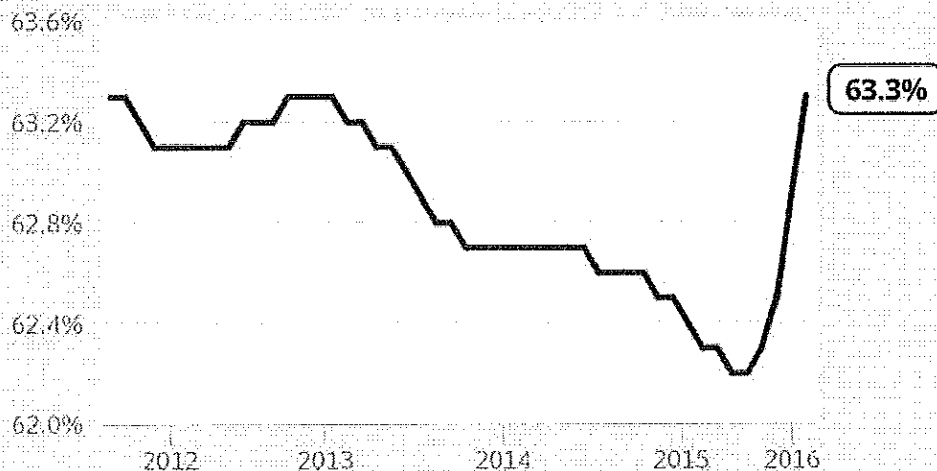
Labor force continues to gain steam through the first quarter of 2016

COLUMBUS, OHIO--Ohio's job market continues to show promise--as The Buckeye Institute's Policy Analyst Joe Nichols recently told the Dayton Daily News, "In January, we had the highest percent increase in the labor force that we've had since 1990. February topped that, and March has topped February." Nichols continued, "The labor force numbers are increasing like nothing we've seen in a long, long time. That's really encouraging news."

The labor force participation rate reflects this surge into the labor market. In just a few months, the rate has rebounded to where it was 4 years ago, although it still remains far from pre-recession levels.

Ohio Labor Participation: March 2016

LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE



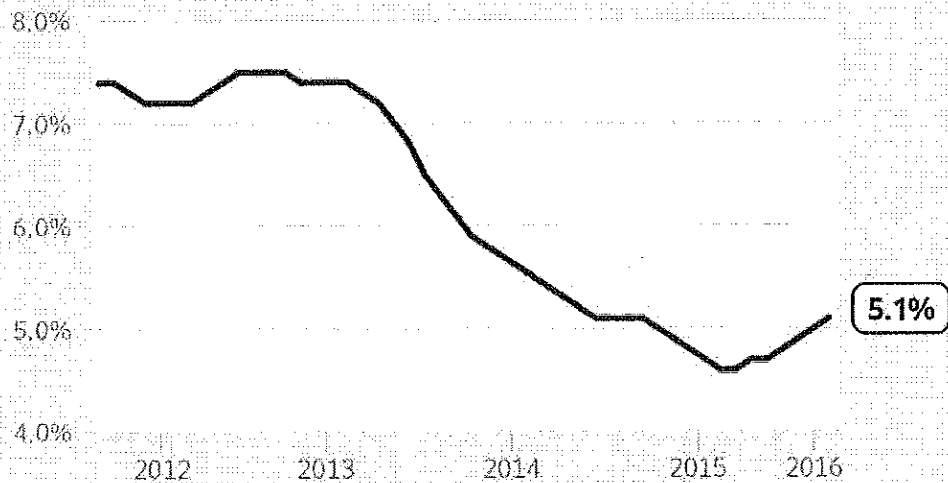
Source: Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Bureau of Labor Market Information.

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On the other hand, the unemployment rate has been trending slightly upward in recent months. This indicator is less alarming while labor force rates are increasing significantly--such a large surge into the jobs market means that some people will take a while to find a job and will be counted as unemployed in the meanwhile.

Ohio Unemployment: March 2016

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



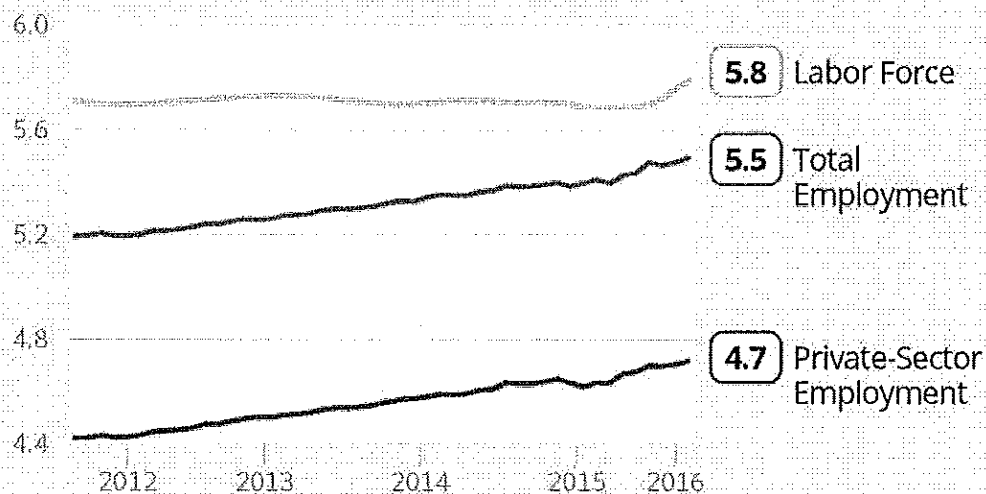
Source: Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Bureau of Labor Market Information.

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Lastly, both private sector and total employment continue a tepid upward trend.

Ohio Employment: March 2016

IN MILLIONS



Source: Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Bureau of Labor Market Information.

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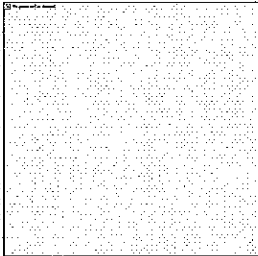
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2016 1:31 PM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: Join Us to Discuss Criminal Justice Reform



Invitation from The Buckeye Institute and Coalition for Public Safety

Fair Sentencing & Fair Chances: Ohio

Join us for a late breakfast and moderated panel discussion with national and state leaders on criminal justice reform - highlighting examples of successful reforms that ensure just outcomes while cutting costs and maintaining public safety.

Wednesday, May 18
10:30 am - 12:00 pm
Renaissance Hotel
50 N 3rd St., Columbus, OH 43215

State Sen. Michael Hough (MD), *Faith and Freedom Coalition*
Jason Pye, *FreedomWorks*
Michael Brickner, *ACLU of Ohio*
W. David Guice, *Commissioner of Div. of Adult Correction & Juvenile Justice, former North Carolina State Representative*
Moderated by Daniel Dew, *The Buckeye Institute*

[Click Here to RSVP](#)

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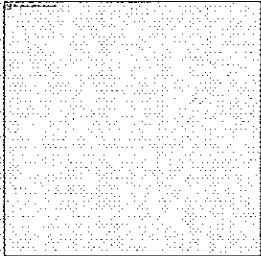
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2016 6:07 AM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: Event Reminder: Help Reform Ohio's Criminal Justice System



Invitation from The Buckeye Institute and Coalition for Public Safety

Fair Sentencing & Fair Chances: Ohio

It's not too late to register for our breakfast and panel discussion with national and state leaders on criminal justice reform. As Ohio policymakers consider improvements to the state's criminal justice system, your voice will be critical.

You can RSVP now to secure your spot or register at the event.

Wednesday, May 18
10:30 am - 12:00 pm
Renaissance Hotel
50 N 3rd St., Columbus, OH 43215

State Sen. Michael Hough (MD), *Faith and Freedom Coalition*
Jason Pye, *FreedomWorks*
Michael Brickner, *ACLU of Ohio*
W. David Guice, *Commissioner of Div. of Adult Correction &
Juvenile Justice, former North Carolina State Representative*
Moderated by Daniel Dew, *The Buckeye Institute*

Click Here to RSVP

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2016 1:16 PM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: The Buckeye Institute secures win for cosmetologists

Legislative Update

The Buckeye Institute secures win for cosmetologists

The Buckeye Institute achieved a major victory today as the General Assembly eliminated a government requirement that cosmetologists undergo further, costly training to be promoted to store manager. The measure now goes to Gov. Kasich's desk for his signature.

The Buckeye Institute brought increased scrutiny to Ohio's cosmetology requirements in Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back, released in November 2015 at a statehouse event with lawmakers. The Buckeye Institute also testified on the cosmetology measure and led a social media campaign to educate Ohioans about government licensing.

"This would not have been possible without our broad coalition of supporters, including The Buckeye Institute, which raised this issue among state residents and provided valuable research to policymakers on Capitol Square," Sen. Kris Jordan (R-Ostrander), who sponsored the reform bill, said.

Under current Ohio law, cosmetologists must undergo an additional 300 hours of training to obtain a government-issued salon-manager license, on top of the 1,200 training hours they already spent receiving their cosmetology license.

"The Buckeye Institute has been indispensable to me during my time cutting through the many layers of red tape Ohio imposes on everyday Ohioans," said Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson), who introduced a companion bill in the House. "Through its testimony and research, I am grateful The Buckeye Institute will be there to move us even farther ahead."

Robert Alt, president and CEO of The Buckeye Institute, said this victory will lead to more opportunities to remove government barriers for Ohioans.

"Our win for cosmetologists is just the start of our work to bring greater freedom to Ohio's workers," Alt said. "We are grateful to our many supporters who make The Buckeye Institute's work, and policy victories, possible."

[Click here to support The Buckeye Institute's efforts cutting big government and securing economic opportunities for the people of Ohio.](#)

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2016 11:14 AM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: Policy win by The Buckeye Institute will enhance private property protections

Legislative Update

Policy win by The Buckeye Institute will enhance private property protections

The Buckeye Institute achieved another policy victory this week, as the Ohio House of Representatives passed a measure reforming civil asset forfeiture, a procedure under Ohio law that allows the government to take property from individuals who have not even been charged with a crime.

On Wednesday, lawmakers approved House Bill 347, which eliminates civil asset forfeiture in most cases involving property worth less than \$25,000, and strengthens what the government must prove for property to be forfeited.

The Buckeye Institute provided policy guidance on this issue to legislative leadership, including the House Judiciary Committee Chairman. Buckeye's experts also testified about cases in which property was wrongly seized by the government costing innocent citizens thousands of dollars.

"This policy is a significant step forward in protecting property rights, which at the same time preserves the ability of the government to seize property from those actually convicted of crimes," Daniel Dew, The Buckeye Institute's Criminal Justice Fellow, said.

"Government exists to protect private property of the innocent, not to confiscate it," Robert Alt, president and CEO of The Buckeye Institute, said. "More can and should be done to protect the property rights of innocent Ohioans. Buckeye will continue to champion additional reforms to protect these rights."

House Bill 347 will next go to the Senate, where it will likely be reviewed after the November election.

[Click here to read The Buckeye Institute's testimony on reforming civil asset forfeiture.](#)

#

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2016 10:51 AM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: Introducing the newest members of our impressive team

Buckeye Institute News Alert

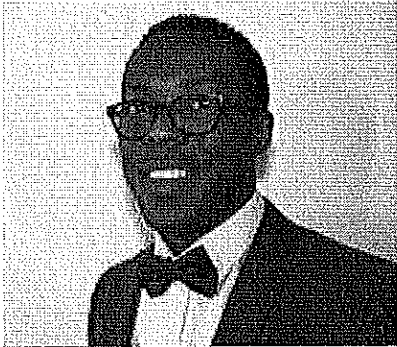
The Buckeye Institute welcomes two new staff members who will focus on economic issues and communications

The Buckeye Institute is pleased to announce two new staff members have joined Ohio's premier free-market think tank.

Orphe Divounguy (OR-fee DEE-voon-GEE) has been named Economist in The Buckeye Institute's Economic Research Center, and Jeff Reed will serve as the organization's new Director of Communications.

Divounguy's research will analyze current economic issues, including public assistance programs and labor policies, and will allow Buckeye to complete "dynamic" scoring and analyses of budgets in Ohio and other states. Reed will lead the organization's state and national press relations and marketing.

"We are excited about the ideas and experience Jeff and Orphe bring to The Buckeye Institute and to Ohio," Robert Alt, president and CEO of The Buckeye Institute, said. "The expansion of our Economic Research Center will make Buckeye the go-to resource for economic analysis of legislation. And Mr. Reed's extensive background in marketing will assure that our ideas are seen around the state and across the country."



Orphe Divounguy

New York, NY, and Cato Institute in Washington, D.C.

Divounguy joins The Buckeye Institute after earning his Ph.D. from England's University of Southampton, where he also obtained his master's degree. After receiving his Ph.D., Divounguy served as a teaching and research fellow and international economic consultant. Divounguy's research focused on labor markets, migration patterns, and economic development.

Before his time in higher education, Divounguy interned at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in



Jeff Reed

Reed previously served as the Global Communications Leader for Corporate Responsibility at Cummins Inc., an Indiana-based Fortune 250 manufacturing company. At Cummins, Reed promoted the company's community engagement activities among its 60,000 global employees.

Prior to Cummins, Reed directed communications for the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, the national nonprofit started by Nobel laureate Milton Friedman. Reed also held public relations roles at the American Legislative Exchange Council in Washington, D.C., after graduating magna cum laude from Ohio University.

Orphe Divounguy can be reached at orphe@buckeyeinstitute.org, and Jeff Reed can be contacted via jeff@buckeyeinstitute.org.

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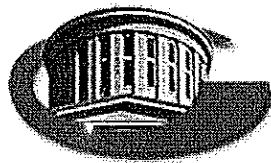
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2016 3:16 PM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: Ohio Report, Wednesday, June 1, 2016
Attachments: Jun1.htm; Jun1Senate.htm; 160601dayplan.htm



GONGWER Ohio
The Record of Capitol Square Since 1906

Ohio Report for Wednesday, June 1, 2016

Mandel Announces Launch Of Tax-Advantaged Savings, Investment Accounts For People With Disabilities

Brown Touts Columbus Transportation Future As Federal Grant Is Announced For Bus Program

Restraining Order Extended In Planned Parenthood Defund; Group Reaches Settlement Over Fetal Remains

Senate, Committees Set To Return Late September

State Plans Quicker Notification For Harmful Algal Blooms

ODP Questions Trump's Support For Veterans Following Billionaire's Contentious Press Conference

Politics Notebook: ACLU Concerned With RNC Media Restrictions; Brown Talks Pensions; Portman Airs First TV Ads...

Capitol Scene: Kasich Names Kalmbach Press Secretary; Buckeye Institute Adds Research, Communications Staff

Governor's Appointments

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

Activity Reports

Senate

Calendars

Day Planner

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Volume #85, Report #105 -- Wednesday, June 1, 2016

Mandel Announces Launch Of Tax-Advantaged Savings, Investment Accounts For People With Disabilities

State Treasurer Josh Mandel on Wednesday announced the launch of a program enabling people living with certain disabilities to save and invest money without losing eligibility for certain public benefits programs.

Earnings from the State Treasury Achieving a Better Life Experience Accounts aren't subject to federal income tax and the money in the accounts would be exempt from state and federal means testing for programs such as Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability Insurance.

"As treasurer of Ohio I am proud to serve as administrator of STABLE Accounts," Treasurer Mandel said in a statement. "By assisting individuals and families with saving and investing, we are supporting persons with disabilities to maintain health, independence and quality of life."

Ohio is the first state to provide the accounts, which were made possible by federal legislation in 2014, according to the treasurer's office. Legislation (HB 155) signed by Gov. John Kasich last July directed the treasurer to implement the program, originally named ABLE.

The accounts are designed to help people with disabilities gain more economic opportunities without jeopardizing their eligibility for care under government programs.

"Today is a historical achievement as now ABLE accounts are a reality for all individuals with disabilities in America thanks to the hard work of so many dedicated advocates from across the US," said National Down Syndrome Society President Sara Hart Weir. "We couldn't be more proud to participate in the launch of the STABLE Accounts in Ohio."

Ohio's program is open to anyone across the country who meets eligibility requirements, though the fees are higher for people who live out-of-state. Ohio residents will pay \$2.50 per month to maintain the accounts, while residents of other states will pay \$5 per month. Ohio residents will pay an asset-based fee of between 0.19-0.34%, depending on investment options, while out-of-state residents will pay a fee between 0.45- 0.60%.

Participants can use the money from the account for qualified expenses, including education, health care, housing and transportation. Participants will be able to choose between five different investment strategies that range in risk levels, including a banking approach that offers no risk and is backed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

"Ohio, by providing these tax-advantaged savings accounts to children and adults with disabilities, has begun to pave the way for a transformative opportunity for one of our country's most disenfranchised populations," said Christopher Rodriguez, senior public policy adviser of the National Disability Institute. "The benefits of these STABLE Accounts will surely promote people with disabilities, and their families, to save for their futures and become a more significant part of the economic mainstream."

The accounts have a yearly contribution limit of \$14,000. Accounts can be set up for free on the program's website, and an initial contribution of \$50 is required.

The legislation that enabled the program passed the House and Senate unanimously last year. The bill's sponsors, Reps. Jonathan Dever (R-Cincinnati) and Margaret Condit (R-Liberty Twp.) said it would help lift people with disabilities out of poverty by allowing them to make and save more money without losing vital programs for their care. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 20, 2015)

Brown Touts Columbus Transportation Future As Federal Grant Is Announced For Bus Program

Federal officials were in Columbus Wednesday to announce a \$37 million grant designed to improve public transit in a corridor of Columbus.

The grant, presented by Federal Transit Administration Acting Administrator Carolyn Flowers and U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon), is designed to help fund a bus rapid transit system along the Cleveland Avenue corridor in Northeast Columbus.

Sen. Brown praised the system as a way of improving access to jobs and increasing opportunities for people who use the route. The system will cut down on the time people spend waiting for buses and riding buses, he said.

"One of the beauties of doing this right in such a progressive city like Columbus is it will make people's lives better and make their time more theirs," he said.

The bus rapid transit program, known as CMAX, will stretch from downtown to Westerville, with 32 bus stops, two new park-and-ride lots and 15 new compressed natural gas buses. It is expected to launch in January 2018.

COTA President and CEO W. Curtis Stitt praised Sen. Brown for his work to maintain the level of funding for public transit programs in the latest long-term transportation authorization bill.

"Without his steadfast support, funding for this would have been impossible," Mr. Stitt said.

After the event and ceremonial grant signing, Sen. Brown said he believed the new bus line would help Columbus win the U.S. Department of Transportation's Smart City Challenge.

The Ohio Legislature last week adopted a resolution (SCR 21) urging the DOT to choose Columbus. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 24, 2016)

Winning the Smart City Challenge, he said would be bigger than just winning \$40 million for transportation programs, he said. Columbus groups have offered an additional \$90 million in investment if Columbus, one of seven national finalists, lands the grant this summer.

"It makes us bigger as a city and as a state nationally," Sen. Brown said. "There will be all kinds of creative people in Central Ohio parlaying that into all kinds of things."

Sen. Brown also said he didn't think the CMAX program precludes Columbus from receiving funding for possible light rail programs later on.

"We're not saying no to light rail," he said. "I think that nothing's off the table."

Restraining Order Extended In Planned Parenthood Defund; Group Reaches Settlement Over Fetal Remains

Planned Parenthood scored two legal victories in recent days, including Wednesday's extension of a temporary restraining order preventing the state from defunding the organization.

The TRO extension was issued by federal Judge Michael Barrett and will remain in effect until Aug. 5. Another hearing on the matter is scheduled for Aug. 2.

Planned Parenthood cheered the ruling in a statement issued Wednesday afternoon.

"Without the action by the court today, some of Ohio's most vulnerable citizens would be left without health care options. Especially for families in underserved areas, Planned Parenthood is the only place to turn," said Iris Harvey, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio.

"Our government should be supporting programs that serve to improve the health and safety of our communities, not using Ohioans as political pawns. We want the people of Ohio to know one thing: Our doors are staying open, no matter what."

Right to Life Ohio blasted the ruling as judicial activism.

"The decision to extend the restraining order casts a light on the might and influence of Big Abortion, even in a pro-life state. Despite the will of Ohio voters, an unelected judge just halted their democratically enacted, constitutional law by another two months," spokeswoman Katherine Franklin said in a statement. "The conscience rights of all Ohioans, including pro-life Ohioans, matter. By preventing the enactment of this legislation, the judge is sending the opposite signal to half of Ohio's voters."

The defunding of the group - which would cost Planned Parenthood \$1.1 million annually in state money - was approved by lawmakers through a bill (HB 294) signed into law by Gov. John Kasich earlier this year. The cutoff was set to go into effect on May 23.

However, Judge Barrett last week initially issued a temporary restraining order through June 6, ruling the organization was likely to succeed in its lawsuit on both First Amendment and Fourteenth Amendment grounds. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 23, 2016)

In a separate case, the organization has reached a settlement with the Department of Health that will require the state to pay \$45,447 in attorney fees. Federal Judge Edmund A. Sargus Jr. will maintain jurisdiction over the case to ensure the settlement agreement is enforced.

The settlement stems from an investigation by Attorney General Mike DeWine that allegedly found that Planned Parenthood affiliates violated Ohio Administrative Code by handing over fetal remains to companies that dispose of them in landfills - a claim the group denied. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 11, 2015)

The court, however, issued a 28-day temporary restraining order against any legal action stemming from the AG's investigation into the group's abortion policies. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 15, 2015)

Soon after, Mr. DeWine announced that he would not enforce the "humane disposal" section of the Administrative Code while the Department of Health and General Assembly sought to further clarify the law. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 18, 2015)

Mr. DeWine's investigation led to a flurry of legislative activity, including a measure (HB 417) that would require the woman seeking an abortion to choose either burial or cremation. Another bill (HB 419) would require the director of the Department of Health to adopt rules requiring abortion facilities to dispose of fetal remains by burial or cremation. Similar legislation (SB 254) was introduced in and recently cleared the Senate.

Senate, Committees Set To Return Late September

The Senate and its committees are set to return to Columbus in late September, according to a schedule released by the chamber on Wednesday.

Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina) has set session and committee dates on September 27, 28 and 29, followed by meetings on October 4, 5 and 6.

The chamber could then return to action after the November election, with if-needed dates set for November 9 and 10.

Dates are also scheduled for November 15, 16, 22 (if needed), 29 and 30.

The chamber is set for session and committee dates on December 1, 6, 7 and 8, with if-needed sessions on the 13th, 14th, 15th and 28th.

The House last week released its schedule for the remainder of the year, with the calendar showing as many as eight session dates. None of the dates on the House schedule are before the election. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 27, 2016)

State Plans Quicker Notification For Harmful Algal Blooms

State agencies have retooled their approach to public outreach efforts when it comes to harmful algal blooms in the state's recreational waterways.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the departments of Health and Natural Resources, in a joint announcement, recently outlined a new strategy to increase awareness among citizens before they enter the water.

As part of the plan, the state will be quicker in issuing public health advisories by basing those alerts solely on the levels of harmful algal bloom toxins, such as microcystin, ODH Medical Director Mary DiOrio said.

Advisories were previously declared only following documented health issues thought to be caused by algal toxins.

"As we continue to better understand harmful algal blooms and the toxins they may produce, we have eliminated the previous requirement for a probable case of an algal bloom-related human illness or a pet death before issuing an elevated recreational public health advisory," Dr. DiOrio said.

In addition to faster public warnings, the state will rely on a website to provide a roundup of ongoing advisories and other pertinent data.

"We are encouraging people to 'know before you go' by checking our BeachGuard website," Dr. DiOrio said. "BeachGuard lists any recreational public health advisories and water quality data for some toxins and E. coli bacteria for Ohio state park lake beaches and boat ramps as well as participating non-state public and private beaches."

Another key component of the new awareness effort is a revamped signage system. A white sign will be posted at all state park beaches and boat ramps, describing the appearance of algal blooms and instructing visitors to be on the lookout.

If an algal bloom is confirmed or when toxin levels are equal to or exceed the designated threshold - six parts per billion for microcystin - orange "warning" signs will be added to the white signs. These signs will state swimming and wading are not recommended for children, pregnant or nursing women, those with certain medical conditions, and pets.

A red "danger" sign will be added if and when algal toxin levels are equal to or exceed a designated threshold - 20 parts per billion for microcystin. That sign will confirm unsafe toxin levels have been detected and instruct visitors to avoid contact with the water.

The agencies are encouraging non-state public and private waters to also adopt the new strategy.

The announcement follows OEPA's recent unveiling of draft phosphorus reduction targets in Lake Erie, which could help reduce such blooms. The plan is part of a multi-state, binational agreement to lower phosphorus levels by 40% by 2025. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 26, 2016)

But Ohio Environmental Council Clean Water Director Adam Rissien has since said the plan doesn't go far enough in curbing runoff pollution from agriculture companies which can feed algae growth.

"Certainly the plan demonstrates a strong commitment to reduce toxic algae, but in order to ensure its success, further action is necessary," Mr. Rissien said. "Real progress requires policies for widespread adoption of conservation practices and proper applications of fertilizer and manure."

OEPA Director Craig Butler and the Army Corps of Engineers, meanwhile, have sparred in recent months over the potential existence of a "toxic blob" in Lake Erie. Although the OEPA says water sampling "clearly shows" the blob's existence, the Corps insists "no credible scientific evidence supports" that idea. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 6, 2016)

ODP Questions Trump's Support For Veterans Following Billionaire's Contentious Press Conference

The Ohio Democratic Party's chairman labeled Donald Trump a "fraud" who is "using veterans as a prop" a day after the billionaire sought to satiate questions of whether he had fulfilled promised donations to veterans groups.

Chairman David Pepper and retired Army Capt. Paul Worley, chair of the ODP veterans' caucus, added their voices to those criticizing the GOP presumptive nominee following Mr. Trump's press conference Tuesday in Trump Tower.

During that press conference, Mr. Trump outlined how he had donated the \$5.6 million raised by a January fundraiser he organized to compete with a Fox News presidential debate.

After the fundraiser, Mr. Trump repeatedly told media and supporters he had raised more than \$6 million from the event. But media reports - including a May 24 report from the *Washington Post* - continued to show that about half that money had not been donated.

Mr. Trump responded this week, outlining how much money had been sent to which groups. Several of those checks - including a \$1 million donation from Mr. Trump that he claimed to have made previously - were written last week, the same day the billionaire was interviewed by the *Post* on the fundraising discrepancy, according to the Associated Press.

"I think over the course of (yesterday) and today we've learned the truth: that Donald Trump is a fraud whose only concern is what's in it for him," Mr. Pepper said in a media call hosted by the Democratic National Committee.

"In this case it's clear that veterans were nothing more than a prop for Donald Trump when he needed them...and he only actually paid up what he said he'd already paid when called on it later," Mr. Pepper continued. "All this shows Donald Trump is not fit to be president."

Mr. Trump attributed the delay in issuing the checks to the process of vetting the various charities. He did not explain the discrepancy between the \$5.6 million figure and his previous claims to have raised more than \$6 million. He said veterans were greatly pleased by his contribution and support.

"I have raised a tremendous amount of money for the vets," Mr. Trump said. "I have been thanked by so many veterans groups throughout the United States."

He made additional headlines Tuesday for the combative nature of his press conference, during which he blasted the media - calling one reporter "a sleaze" - and said he would continue that contentious relationship with the media if elected president.

Mr. Worley, an Adams County commissioner who served three tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, questioned Mr. Trump's leadership following the candidate's early criticism of Sen. John McCain for being captured as a prisoner of war and for his conflicting statements on the permissibility of torture.

"Trump is a classic example of someone who will promise things - say he's doing things for veterans - but will turn around and not follow through on his promises," Mr. Worley said. "He is not a leader that cares about people. He only cares about himself."

During Mr. Trump's press conference, 22-year retired Marine and New Hampshire State Rep. Al Baldasaro shot back against claims Mr. Trump doesn't support veterans.

"I would never in a million years put my name on a candidate who did not from his heart look me in the eye and tell me he is concerned about veterans," Mr. Baldasaro said, urging the media to "get your heads out of your butts and focus on the real issues."

Politics Notebook: ACLU Concerned With RNC Media Restrictions; Brown Talks Pensions; Portman Aims First TV Ads...

On Wednesday, the ACLU of Ohio voiced concerns that potential flight restrictions and new credentialing procedures will hinder media access to the Republican National Convention.

In a letter to media outlets, ACLU Legal Director Freda Levenson said, "Increased control by the government over media access at the RNC presents serious First Amendment concerns."

Journalists planning to cover the July event in Cleveland must currently be screened and credentialed by the Secret Service. And expanded use of flight restrictions could be implemented by the Federal Aviation Administration to create no-fly zones around the event.

"The new credentialing process may reduce the ability of reporters to get access to events as they unfold," Ms. Levenson wrote. "Restrictions put in place by the FAA could completely block the ability of news agencies to obtain aerial footage of the convention, protests, and the actions of law enforcement."

A day prior, Cleveland leaders announced new security plans for the event, which is expected to draw 50,000 people. Officials didn't provide specifics - saying that doing so could compromise security - but outlined the training and organizational efforts being undertaken in advance of the event.

The same day, the RNC Host Committee announced a joint beautification effort to establish "a brighter, more welcoming experience along the main pedestrian and vehicular thoroughfares in downtown Cleveland."

Pensions: U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon), while in Columbus with federal transportation officials to present a \$37 million grant to the Central Ohio Transit Authority (*see separate story*), criticized Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky) for blocking a bill Sen. Brown sponsored to shore up pension plans for miners.

Sen. Brown has been pushing for the Senate to consider the Miners Protection Act he sponsored alongside Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) before breaking for the summer. The bill is an effort to address the shortfall in the United Mine Workers of America's 1974 pension plan, which was 94% funded before 2008 and is now severely underfunded due to the financial crisis and fewer active workers, according to Sen. Brown's office.

"One senator, the Republican leader in the Senate, has blocked the Senate from doing its job to protect these miners," Sen. Brown said.

Sen. Brown stressed the "urgent need" to address the pension shortfall in a letter to Sen. McConnell last week.

The senator also said he hoped lawmakers could work together to fix similar pension concerns faced by Teamsters.

Cincinnati Zoo: Rep. Denise Driehaus (D-Cincinnati) urged citizens to wait for investigations to conclude before jumping to conclusions about the recent killing of a gorilla after a 3-year-old boy entered the animal's exhibit.

A 17-year-old silverback, named Harambe, was shot and killed May 28 after the boy crawled into the exhibit and fell 15 feet into a moat separating the animals from visitors. Protestors said the gorilla appeared to be protecting the boy, although video, which does not show the entire ordeal, shows the 450-pound animals dragging the boy by the leg through the moat several times.

Protestors argue workers should have tranquilized the animal. But zoo officials contend doing so could have enraged the gorilla and that tranquilizers would take up to 10 minutes to go into effect.

In the wake of the incident, Sen. Cecil Thomas (D-Cincinnati) told the *Cincinnati Enquirer* he's looking into whether a law should be drafted to levy fines or criminal charges on one who causes the death, by their negligence, of an endangered animal.

In a statement Wednesday, Rep. Driehaus said she'd spoken "at length" with Cincinnati Zoo Director Thane Maynard and urged caution from those judging actions of zoo officials and the family involved.

"I trust the zoo officials and am confident they exercised their best professional judgment given the harrowing circumstances," Rep. Driehaus said. "Though losing Harambe is truly tragic, our community can take comfort in the fact that the zoo prevented the serious injury or death of a three-year-old child. I am thankful the zoo protected this young boy's life."

Later in the day, the *Enquirer* reported that an investigation had concluded and no charges would be filed.

U.S. Senate Race: U.S. Sen. Rob Portman's (R-Terrace Park) reelection campaign launched his first television ads this week.

The three ads are intended to showcase Sen. Portman's efforts to combat the prescription drug and heroin epidemic. They're part of a \$15 million ad buy stretching until November that was announced last month. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 12, 2016)

"Working together with Democrats and Republicans, I passed legislation to help break the grip of addiction," Sen. Portman said in one of the ads. "By investing in prevention, treatment, and recovery, empowering law enforcement, and stopping the over prescribing of painkillers, we can turn the tide."

NARAL Pro-Choice America, meanwhile, announced its own ad campaign targeting Sen. Portman. The campaign is aimed at pressuring Sen. Portman and other Republicans to fulfill the ongoing Supreme Court vacancy.

"NARAL is stepping up to ensure Sen. Portman does the job the people of Ohio elected him to do," NARAL Senior Vice President Sasha Bruce said.

Sen. Portman, who like many of his colleagues believes the next president should fill the post, previously said his stance is "the right thing for the country." (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 9, 2016)

Former Democratic Gov. Ted Strickland, who's running in an effort to unseat Sen. Portman, landed the endorsement of the American Federation of Teachers, the group announced Wednesday.

"The future of our state depends on whether we are committed to our children," Ohio Federation of Teachers President Melissa Cropper said. "Ohio students and parents need the kind of arduous support Governor Strickland provides in making education his highest priority."

Capitol Scene: Kasich Names Kalmbach Press Secretary; Buckeye Institute Adds Research, Communications Staff

Gov. John Kasich on Wednesday named Emmalee Kalmbach as his press secretary.

Currently the communications director for Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, the Bob Jones University graduate recently served as a member of the communications team for the governor's presidential campaign.

The native of Littleton, N.H. is also the former communications director for the Massachusetts Republican Party.

Ms. Kalmbach replaces Joe Andrews, who has been serving as the governor's interim press secretary since Rob Nichols departed last summer to work on the campaign. Mr. Andrews will return to his position as communications director for the Department of Public Safety.

In another development impacting the governor's staff, Jon Keeling, a former political blogger and deputy communications director for Mr. Kasich, has been named spokesman for the Department of Job and Family Services.

Buckeye Institute: The Columbus-based free market think tank on Wednesday announced two new staff members with the aim of focusing on budget and labor issues.

Orphe Divounguy was named economist in the Institute's Economic Research Center, and Jeff Reed will serve as the group's communications director.

Mr. Divounguy's research will focus on current economic issues, including public assistance programs and labor policies, and will entail "dynamic" scoring and analysis of

budgets in Ohio and other states, according to the group. Mr. Reed will lead the organization's state and national press relations and marketing.

"We are excited about the ideas and experience Jeff and Orphe bring to The Buckeye Institute and to Ohio," President and CEO Robert Alt said in a statement.

"The expansion of our Economic Research Center will make Buckeye the go-to resource for economic analysis of legislation. And Mr. Reed's extensive background in marketing will assure that our ideas are seen around the state and across the country."

Mr. Divounguy holds degrees from England's University of Southampton, and after receiving his Ph.D., he served as a teaching and research fellow and international economic consultant.

Mr. Reed previously served as the global communications leader for Corporate Responsibility at Indiana-based Cummins Inc. The Ohio University graduate previously held posts with the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice and the American Legislative Exchange Council in Washington, D.C.

Governor's Appointments

Community Schools Dropout Recovery Study Committee: Alex Johnson of Solon for a term beginning May 31, 2016 and continuing at the pleasure of the governor.

Cleveland State University Board of Trustees: Todd C. Davidson of Cleveland for a term beginning May 31, 2016 and ending May 1, 2025.

Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas: Thomas D. Heekin Jr. of Cincinnati will assume office on June 6, 2016 and must run in the November 2016 general election to retain the seat for the full term commencing January 4, 2017. Mr. Heekin holds degrees from the University of Colorado and University of Cincinnati. He has been a criminal litigator for Heekin & Heekin since 2002.

State Employment Relations Board: J. Richard Lumpe of Columbus for a term beginning June 1, 2016 and ending October 6, 2021.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Thursday, June 2

Elections Commission, Rm. East B., 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Monday, June 6

STEM Designation Committee, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, June 8

Consumers' Counsel Governing Board, Suite 1800, 10 W. Broad St., Columbus, 9 a.m.

Thursday, June 16

Expositions Commission, Voinovich Center, 717 E. 17th Ave., Columbus, 11 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Thursday, June 30

20th Annual Rockin' Fiscal Eve, Miller's Ale House, 1201 Olentangy River Rd., Columbus, 5 p.m.,

(All-invited celebration

of the end of MBRs in FY 2016 with MBRs (Massive Beer Rounds). Parking adjacent to building.)

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Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley,
Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

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Senate Activity for Wednesday, June 1, 2016

INTRODUCED

SB 337 ■ **ROAD NAMING (Hughes, J.)** To designate a portion of Interstate Route 270 in Franklin County as the "Hilliard Patrol Officer Sean Johnson Memorial Highway." Am. 5534.44

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Columbus Ohio 43215
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Daily Activity Planner for Thursday, June 2

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

Construction Industry Licensing Board, 6606 Tussing Road, OCILB Conference Room, Reynoldsburg, 10 a.m. (HVAC Section)

Elections Commission, Rm. East B., 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

State Employment Relations Board, 65 E. State St., 12th Fl., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Event Planner

Ohio Department of Taxation public hearing on proposed current agricultural use values, 22rd Floor, 30 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 10 a.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

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From: report@hannah.com
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2016 3:25 PM
To: DL_Hannah
Subject: Hannah News Stories for Wednesday, June 1, 2016

Wednesday, June 1, 2016

IN TODAY'S HANNAH REPORT:

Please click here to read the entire Hannah Report.

Today's Stories

- [Senate Announces Sessions for Rest of 2016; Composite Schedule Included with Today's Report](#)
- [Ohio First State to Launch STABLE Accounts under Federal Law](#)
- [Federal Judge Extends Block on Planned Parenthood Defunding Bill](#)
- [Local Leaders, OhioMHAS Join for Recovery Summit](#)
- [OTA Convention Features Next Gen 9-1-1 Discussion](#)
- [Last Week of Session Sees Legislature Finish Work on 35 Bills](#)
- [Study Panel to Consider Dropout Recovery School Issues](#)
- [State Government Roundup: Governor, AG](#)
- [Campaign Corner: Mary Taylor](#)
- [People in the News: Buckeye Institute](#)
- [Ohio Digest: COTA Funds](#)
- [Campus Chronicle: Special Education Grant](#)

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From: report@hannah.com
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To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: Hannah News Stories for Wednesday, June 1, 2016

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From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2016 6:59 AM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: How Ohio can grow its health care market amid federal changes

New Policy Report

The Buckeye Institute prescribes policy pills for health care ills

Did you know states can grow and improve their health care markets in 2017, regardless of who wins the presidency? A report released today by The Buckeye Institute shows how.

In *Health Care Challenges That States Should Prepare to Face in 2017*, Rea S. Hederman Jr. of The Buckeye Institute and Brian Blase with the Mercatus Center offer ways states can respond to Republican repeals or Democratic tweaks of the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare.

At a minimum, the authors encourage Ohio and other states to:

- Reform their "certificate of need" regulations that prevent health care suppliers from growing or building new facilities.
- Expand "charity care" so that health professionals can provide free services to low-income residents in different parts of their state.
- Promote "telemedicine" for doctors to diagnose minor illnesses and prescribe medicine online to more rural residents.

There are other remedies states could -- and should -- consider to bring local control, lower costs, and higher quality to their health care markets. [Click here to download the PDF report](#) and get The Buckeye Institute's full policy prescription.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution -- a think tank -- whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

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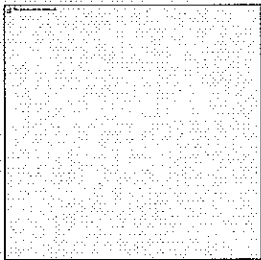
Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Thursday, June 9, 2016 12:37 PM

To: Derksen, Nick

Subject: We are suing the Obama Administration over the Clean Power Plan; attend event June 29 to hear more



Exclusive Invitation

We are suing the Obama Administration over the unconstitutional Clean Power Plan

West Virginia Solicitor General arguing the case to speak at an
exclusive luncheon, June 29, in Columbus

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was given unprecedented authority by President Obama to regulate carbon emissions across the country. Because the EPA's actions circumvent state authority and are unconstitutional, The Buckeye Institute, a coalition of other groups, and 26 states are suing the Obama Administration.

To explain the lawsuit against the president's Clean Power Plan, The Buckeye Institute and Columbus Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society are hosting the Solicitor General of West Virginia, Elbert Lin -- the lead oral advocate for the plaintiffs -- at an exclusive luncheon, June 29, in Columbus. The event will be moderated by The Buckeye Institute's president and CEO, Robert Alt.

Will you join us for this important discussion? [Click here](#), or the button below, for details on the event and on how to register.

RSVP

Help us fight this federal power grab and ensure Ohio is protected from the EPA's attempt to raise energy prices and kill manufacturing jobs in our state.

###

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The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2016 6:54 AM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: Ohio a national leader on jobs?

Buckeye Institute News Alert

Contact: Jeff Reed
Director of Communications
The Buckeye Institute
614-224-4422
jeff@buckeyeinstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, June 17, 2016

Latest jobs report shows Ohio is a national leader, according to The Buckeye Institute

COLUMBUS -- Increases in Ohio's employment and labor force participation rates last month make the state a national leader, according to a policy analyst at The Buckeye Institute. The state's latest jobs report showed Ohio's unemployment rate fell for the first time in nine months.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' May employment report, released Friday morning, shows the state's unemployment rate dropped to 5.1 percent in May from 5.2 percent in April. Labor force participation increased slightly in May to 63.6 percent from April's 63.5 percent. Buckeye's Joe Nichols said both combined make Ohio a national leader.

"Ohioans want to work, as evidenced by the continued increase in the state's labor force participation, which is outpacing the national average," Nichols said. "The fact unemployment finally dropped after nine months of stagnation means workers are starting to find jobs."